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BELL'S
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Today



Open-air epic

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Lord of the censors

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FREEDOM FIGHTER
The new ideological guerrillas: Guardian Women meets a terrorist from the Animal Liberation Front.

Tuesday

PLACE SEEKERS
Where will 10,000 children end up? Education Guardian on the battle for parental choice of school.

Thursday

BOND AND BIRD
Derek Malcolm reviews the new Bond and Alan Parker's Cannes prizewinner, Birdy. Movie Guardian.

News in Brief

Bank aids Sinclair

THE Bank of England is overhauling the efforts to save Sinclair Research, Britain's pioneer home computer company. Page 11.

Hotels deal talk

MARRIOTT Corporation, the US hotel group, said last night that it was considering spending \$400 million on acquiring the Howard Johnson hotel chain from the Imperial group.

Tamil traced

THE Tamil deported from Britain by what the Government admitted was an administrative blunder, has been found safe in Colombia. Page 2.

Threat to unions

BRITISH Rail is threatening to sue two unions unless they pay £200,000 compensation for alleged losses caused by action in support of the miners. Back page.

Home for CD

GOVERNMENT civil defence guidelines issued yesterday repeated the traditional advice—stay at home. Page 2.

Bank charges

THREE officials of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation will appear in court today to face unspecified charges. Page 18.

Britain accused

LAWYERS on an International Labour Organisation committee have accused Britain of breaking international law by banning unions at work. Page 2.

The weather

COOL with sunny intervals. Details, back page.

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Supporters want legislation brought forward

Powell bill fails but embryo battle hots up

By Colin Brown, Political Reporter

Tory backbenchers last night mounted a campaign to force the Government to bring forward legislation banning embryo research, after a private bill by Mr Enoch Powell had been "talked out" in the Commons.

Supporters of Mr Powell's bill were incensed when they learned that the Cabinet decided on Thursday that it would be unable to include the proposed comprehensive bill on the Warnock Committee recommendations on embryology in the next session of Parliament.

The supporters who plan to meet at Westminster next week to agree on tactics were adamant that the Government has a duty not only to legislate in the next session but to include the Powell bill proposals in a free vote measure.

Although the health minister, Mr Kenneth Clarke, who opposes a ban on all embryo research, was able to breathe a sigh of relief after the defeat of the bill yesterday, he is faced with the problem of holding off Mr Powell's supporters for more than a year.

A disappointed Mr Powell said last night: "There will be pressure from the public for controls and for legislation. The pressure now is clearly switched to the Government."

A former health minister, Dr Gerard Vaughan, Conservative MP for Reading, East, who strongly supported the Powell bill, said he believed that the Government would be forced to act in the next session, just as it had been forced to introduce an emergency bill banning commercial surrogacy in 1984.

Mr Shultz was commenting after the two-day Nato ministerial council in Estoril, where Star Wars and the future of the Salt II had dominated the discussions.

The communiqué, drawn up by the foreign ministers, stressed Nato's political solidarity and made no reference to either of these issues. All members refused to associate themselves with any endorsement of the research phase of Star Wars.

The Americans, while seeking the views of their allies on the continued US adherence to Salt II, had indicated before the meeting that the final decision was up to Washington, and not the Nato council.

Mr Shultz yesterday acknowledged that the Nato Foreign Ministers had been "virtually unanimous" in calling on the Administration to give the benefit of the doubt to alleged Soviet violations of the treaty. They urged that everything possible should be done to maintain the status quo.

He added that the President

sense, because it was both judge and jury. Mr Jack Scarisbrick, national organiser for Life, the group which strongly lobbied for support for Mr Powell's bill, said that a delay of more than a year would be lamentable.

"I think the Government ought to accept that there is a substantial majority in the House of Commons for control of embryo abuse, and that this

country as a whole is strongly against research. Government legislation must enshrine the principles of the Powell bill," he said.

The Government had hoped to introduce a Warnock bill in the next Queen's Speech with a free vote. But ministers are now under pressure to reject the Warnock proposal that experimentation should be allowed on embryos for up to 14 days, and instead legislate for a complete ban.

Demands for the Government to take up Mr Powell's bill in the next session of parliament were also made by Sir Bernard Braine, Conservative MP for Castle Point, and Mr Peter Bruvels, Conservative MP for Leicester East, who acted as an unofficial whip on the bill.

The bill was killed by what its supporters called an unholy alliance between Government whips and Labour backbenchers who had the support of some Tory MPs.

They joined forces to prevent a motion by another of the bill's supporters, Mr Andrew Bowden, Conservative MP for Brighton Kemptown, being passed to enable Mr Powell's Unborn Children (Protection) Bill being taken through its final stages by forcing the Commons to adjourn, to sit over the weekend.

Mr Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, matched the ingenuity of Mr Powell by exploiting the Commons' adjournment to stop Mr Bowden's motion reaching a vote.

Mr Skinner took the unusual step in a remarkable speech of moving the writ for the Broom and Radnor by-election. This took precedence over Mr Bowden's motion, and Mr Skinner's backers on both sides of House joined in the debate.

Some, like a Tory backbencher, Robert Adley, a railway buff, were highly amused at the sight of Mr Skinner's bluffing material. He had volleys on steam railways in central Wales.

The Chief Whip, Mr John Wakeham, and his colleagues opposed the House being asked to sit at the weekend for private members' legislation, even though they privately supported Mr Powell.

Mr Powell had to watch grimly and impotently as his opponents, by pre-arrangement with the whips on the Government bench, slowly killed all hope of his bill reaching the statute book.

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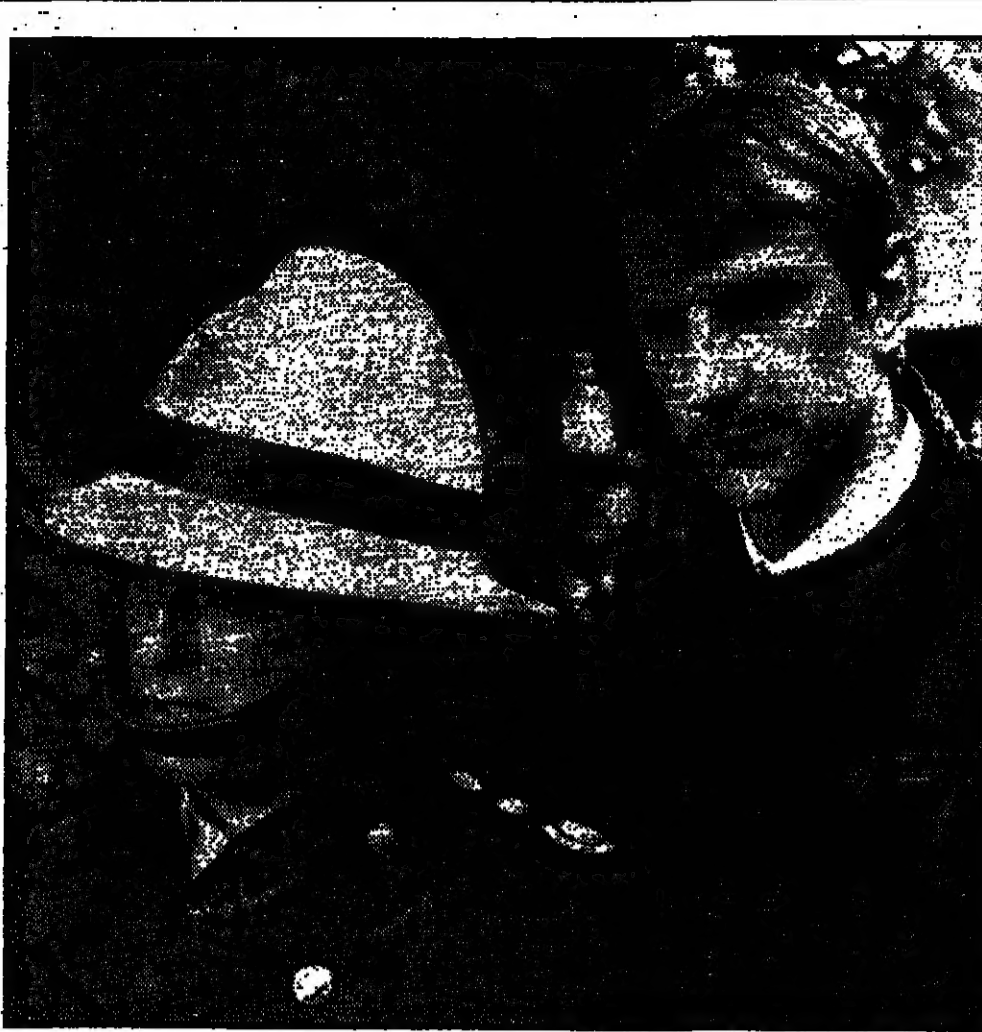
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END OF QUEST: John Bowker, Isle of Wight chief fire officer, and Tautrydas Girenas talking to journalists that Tautrydas's brother Ramon had been found dead

Rescue workers find body in well

By Seamus Milne

The four-day effort to rescue a man trapped in a collapsed well at Ventnor, Isle of Wight, ended yesterday afternoon when tunnel-boring equipment discovered his body near the bottom of the 50ft shaft.

Rescue workers had clung to the hope that Mr Ramon Girenas, aged 22, was alive, but just before 11pm the body was found, the body was found, the body was found.

Mr Girenas's father, Mr John Bowker, who was in charge of the rescue operation, said that Mr Girenas had been found, the body was found, the body was found.

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Axe falls on pit that led strike

By Peter Hetherington

Cortonwood, the South Yorkshire colliery that became the symbol of resistance for striking miners during their 12-month stoppage, will end production next December, the National Coal Board said yesterday.

It also announced the closure of Brookhouse, near Sheffield, as part of its plan to cut 2,800 of the 13,300 jobs in the industry.

In a statement, he said: "The scale and viciousness of the closures and job losses reveals positively that just as the NUM warned all along, the NCB and the Government have misled not only the miners but the British public."

Mr Jack Taylor, the Yorkshire area president, was more circumspect and noted the miners were paying the price for not winning the dispute.

In a reference to the divisions and confusion in the NUM since the end of the strike in March, Mr Taylor called for the restoration of unity within the union, so that the proposed closures could be opposed.

The Yorkshire NUM could decide to refer the closures and manpower reductions to the new review procedure when its area council meets, possibly next week.

Mr Taylor warned: "At the end of the procedure we shall have some very difficult decisions to take as a union and any move will have to be taken collectively."

Mr Harold Taylor, the South Yorkshire area president, said that the NUM was considering whether to refer the latest closures to the review procedure.

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Lebanon takes Finnish troops hostage

From AP and Reuter in Sidon

Soldiers of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army, last night threatened to kill 24 Finnish members of Unifil, who they took hostage earlier in the day, unless Shiite Muslim guerrillas free their comrades, a UN spokesman, Mr Timur Goksel, said.

Finnish troops clashed with the SLA near Qantara, just outside Israel's security zone, and 11 men surrendered their weapons to the Finns. The cause of the clash was unclear, but after the UN troops released the 11 SLA reinforcements seized five Finns, including two officers. They accused Unifil of attacking their comrades — an allegation that Mr Goksel denied.

The 11 SLA soldiers were later taken hostage themselves by Amal militiamen in a nearby village.

SLA fighters then captured 19 Finnish soldiers at the village of Adaisheh, near the Israeli border, as they returned by bus to Lebanon for duty. The SLA threatened to kill the Finns unless Amal handed the 11 back.

"We are trying to negotiate with all sides," said Mr Goksel. "We are preparing counter measures. The situation is very confused and we are trying to clarify it."

An Israeli officer in Tel Aviv supported SLA claims of being attacked by Unifil by describing it as "a very serious initiative by the UN forces."

Mr Goksel dismissed the allegation by saying: "We do not attack people."

Israel wants the SLA to handle security in the area when it completes its withdrawal from Lebanon. Amal has said it will continue guerrilla attacks until both leave. There have been reports of SLA defections to Amal.

In New York, the Secretary General of the UN, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, has asked Israel's representative, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, for his government's help to ensure the release of the Finns and the Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, at present in New York, was immediately contacted. A UN spokesman said the secretary-general who has arranged a series of crisis meetings.

Mr Goksel was in radio contact with the Finnish captives yesterday afternoon. They were being held in two groups, five at a Unifil checkpoint in Qantara and 19 in the UN bus, with a radio at Adaisheh, three and a half miles southeast of the town.

"They said they want to kill them, one every hour, until all their men are returned, but we don't have their men," Mr Goksel said.

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US fails to sway Europe

By Hella Pick

The United States has failed in its attempt to secure formal Nato endorsement of President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative, but US determination to press ahead with the project.

The Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, said yesterday that it would be a great mistake if anyone were to think that the programme was to be deflected by opposition from Nato's foreign ministers.

Mr Shultz was commenting after the two-day Nato ministerial council in Estoril, where Star Wars and the future of the Salt II had dominated the discussions.

The communiqué, drawn up by the foreign ministers, stressed Nato's political solidarity and made no reference to either of these issues. All members refused to associate themselves with any endorsement of the research phase of Star Wars.

The Americans, while seeking the views of their allies on the continued US adherence to Salt II, had indicated before the meeting that the final decision was up to Washington, and not the Nato council.

Mr Shultz yesterday acknowledged that the Nato Foreign Ministers had been "virtually unanimous" in calling on the Administration to give the benefit of the doubt to alleged Soviet violations of the treaty. They urged that everything possible should be done to maintain the status quo.

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Inside man' behind £6m security haul

By Paul Keel

A highly placed "inside man" at the time of a raid on the Security Express headquarters provided crucial information enabling an armed gang to steal £6 million in Britain's biggest cash robbery, according to senior sources at Scotland Yard.

Yesterday four men were convicted at the Old Bailey on charges connected with the robbery at the security company's depot in Shoreditch, east London, on Easter Monday, 1983.

After a 15-week trial, and a 16-hour retirement, the jury returned a 10-2 majority verdict of robbery on Terence George Perkins, aged 35, a property developer of Enfield, Middlesex, and John Leonard Knight, aged 47, a garage owner of Wheatthorpe, Bedfordshire.

Knight's brother James, aged 37, a restaurateur of Stanmore, Middlesex, and John Hickman, aged 41, a market trader of Holborn, London, were found guilty of handling stolen cash from the raid.

All four will be sentenced on Monday with a fifth man, John Horsley, aged 43, who pleaded guilty to the robbery.

Two other defendants, Jacqueline Perkins, aged 35, the wife of Terence Perkins, and Robert Young, aged 47, a chartered accountant of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, acquitted on handling charges.

Move to use 'wasted sites'
to save green field areas

Jenkin pledges to help builders get council land

By Geoff Andrews,
Local Government
Correspondent

Property developers were told yesterday by Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, to let him know where they wanted to build on unused council sites, and he would act on their behalf "to get it into use".

He told the annual conference of the Royal Town Planning Institute in Nottingham that he wanted to "stop the scandal of wasted land in public ownership", which was denying its use to private developers who would otherwise build on precious green field sites.

People rightly protested when they saw urban fringes being built over while vast areas of the urban core remained unused, Mr Jenkin said.

Owners often demanded absurdly high prices for sites which had lain idle for years, and public sector sites were particularly hard to sell in this respect. Shortage of good quality sites in the urban core was one of the reasons why many firms had moved out.

Tamil in deportation blunder found alive

By Paul Brown

The Tamil who was deported to Sri Lanka before his case had been properly considered has been found safe and well in Colombo, the Home Office said yesterday. Mr Kandiah Raveenthiran is staying with his brother in the Sri Lankan capital and has been told his case is being given top priority.

The Home Office is expected to announce the decision after the weekend. If Mr Raveenthiran is allowed to return to Britain his fare will be paid by the Home Office.

In the House of Commons yesterday the Speaker rejected a demand by Mr Max Madden, Labour MP for Bradford West, for a statement on the affair from the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan. Mr Brittan has promised an urgent and thorough investigation into the organisational failure and the actions of individual members of staff.

The chairman of the British Refugee Council, Sir Arthur Peterson, led a delegation yesterday to see Home Office

minister, Mr David Waddington, on behalf of Tamils who have fled to Britain. Mr Martin Barber, the director said afterwards that the Tamils were in fear of their lives and wanted to return home and resume their lives when the situation improved.

Mr Barber said that Mr Waddington showed considerable interest in the council's arguments but there was no sign of a change of policy. Mr Barber said a decision taken by the Swiss Government that it would not send Tamils back until the situation had "substantially improved" was recommended to Mr Waddington.

The numbers of Tamils involved, around 1,300 in the recent exodus and another 1,000 in the previous year, was not large. The delegation urged the minister to give the British High Commission in Colombo permission to deal quickly with new visa applications when people were in fear of their lives.

Clarke's veto angers doctors

By Andrew Veitch,
Medical Correspondent

The health minister, Mr Kenneth Clarke, was yesterday accused of political interference after vetoing the appointment of the district administrator, Mr Michael Whelan, as general manager of South-west Surrey health district.

Mr Clarke approved the district's subsequent choice for the post, an Essex executive, Mr Derek Denyer — but he turned down the job and Mr Whelan is in temporary charge of the health authority.

The Royal Surrey Hospital surgeon, Mr Richard Notley, describes the veto in today's British Medical Journal as "a piece of direct political interference in a National Health Service appointment the like of which I have never seen before."

Mr Notley and two other consultants are to meet Mr Clarke next week to demand an explanation. The refusal to ratify the appointment of Mr Whelan, writes Mr Notley, "lacks any proper logic and is a direct interference by central government."

The decision was "unacceptable," he adds. "I and my colleagues find it most disturbing." Mr Notley had no criticism of Mr Denyer who would have made "a worthy general manager."

The health district's chairman, Mr Patrick Salmon, denied there had been political interference.

The selection committee made a recommendation, but the minister said "No, try again." We chose Mr Denyer. The Department of Health agreed, but Mr Denyer decided to take a job with British Telecom instead. YW will be re-advertising for a general manager on June 27.

Mr Clarke's veto is in line with Government policy of appointing people from outside the NHS as general managers wherever possible.

However, Mr Notley, former chairman of the district committee, says, "Mr Whelan was picked from a list of 60 candidates which included industrialists and businessmen."

Mr Whelan was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Flower power sweeps estate

By Susan Tirbitt

A SOLITARY common wild orchid in the grass verges of an old people's home is causing conflict between residents, naturalists and a local authority.

The plant, a hybrid between the southern grass marsh and common spotted, became the last of its kind earlier this month when Winchester council grass cutters mowed down its neighbours on Springsvale housing estate, Swansmore, Hampshire.

Naturalists are petitioning the council, which owns the house, to let the orchid live.

However, the council says that the orchid is common, not worth protecting and was spared only because of a shortage of grass cutters. "If this had been a unique species, it would have been different but there are problems in isolating self-seeding orchids," said a spokesman.

Dr Robert Page, conservation officer of Hampshire and Isle of Wight naturalists' trust, said: "They are not rare but they are becoming uncommon because their habitat is declining."

The two species of orchid, southern grass marsh and common spotted, had appeared on the Springsvale estate two years ago. "They're insectivorous little chaps, they hybridise like mad," said Dr Page.

People who live on the estate are divided about the remaining flower. A petition to protect it, organised by the trust, has been signed by 31 old people whose home overlooks the orchid. Two, who said the verges needed mowing, have signed against.

The orchid's expected lifespan is 30 to 40 years.

Working at snails pays

Schoolboys are being recruited to help start a snail farm at Looesley Row, Buckinghamshire. A catering supplier, Mr John Christmas is offering a penny each for the snails which will be exported to France.

Civil defence guide ignores nuclear winter

By Richard Norton-Taylor
and Rosemary Collins

THREE government departments yesterday released detailed guidance on civil defence after a nuclear attack, without referring to recent studies that even a limited exchange could lead to the "nuclear winter".

The Home Office, which repeats the traditional advice that the best protection is to stay at home, says in its guidance to local emergency planning officers: "The suggestion that the use of nuclear weapons might have long-term physical effects is living lives in the immediate aftermath of a nuclear attack." It might be safe to emerge from a shelter 48

hours after an attack. Similar advice is given in a Ministry of Agriculture pamphlet which says that pigs and poultry can survive for two days without water, and cattle and sheep for four or five days.

Farmers should use sheets of polythene to protect their cattle and water supplies, and shovel earth into their lofts to minimise the effects of nuclear war.

The Ministry has printed 15,000 copies of the document after two years' research and it replaces advice published in 1968, although little has changed. In the old booklet farmers were advised to protect their cattle with sheets of tarpaulin.

The third initiative which came out of Whitehall yesterday was a guarded welcome by the British Medical Association.

Dr John Dawson, co-author of the BMA's own nuclear war report, said that in its consultative paper sent to health authorities, the Department of Health and Social Security had made a more honest attempt to recognise the problems and the important differences between conventional and nuclear attacks.

It says health authorities should plan for a rapid dispersal of supplies and equipment and that staff should be trained to work in primitive conditions. It does not make the point that hospital

equipment — X-ray machines, for example — are increasingly "built into hospitals."

As to who should be regarded as worthy of treatment, it suggests only that this should be up to "the sole discretion" of the secretary of state.

The DHSS circular adds: "With massive numbers of casualties, a reduction in the health facilities available, disorganised transport and poor communications it cannot be expected that anything approaching peacetime standards of care would be available to all who required it."

The Home Office emphasises the need for "flexible"

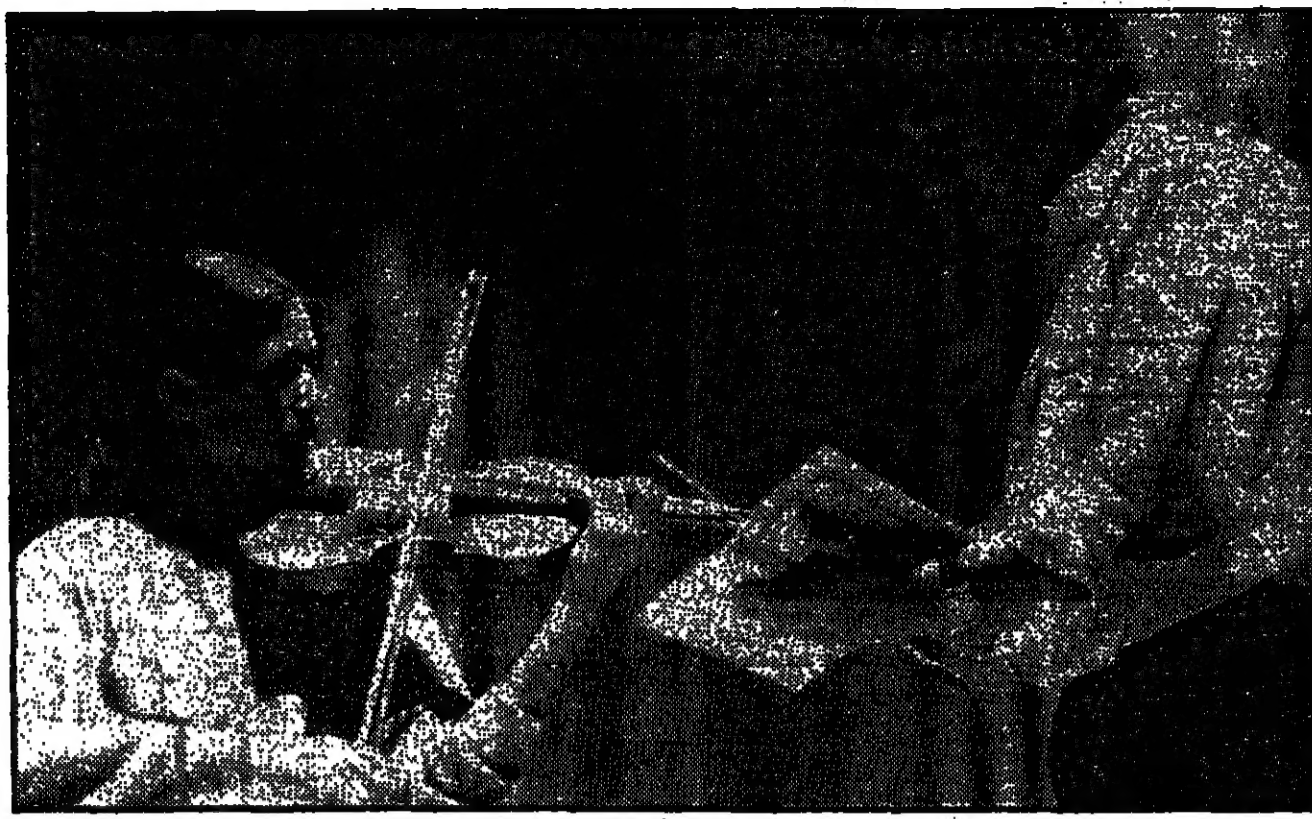
arrangements on the training of civil defence volunteers. It urges emergency planning officers to look for suitable communal shelters.

But it said yesterday that its new version of the widely criticised Protect and Survive pamphlet is not ready, nor was its advice on the effect of chemical weapons.

The Ministry of Agriculture leaflet, described by Mr John Home-Robertson, Labour's agriculture spokesman as "high-octane drivel," says that farmers should make sure that any workers using noisy machinery on the day of nuclear attack are told that the whistle or gong has sounded, as otherwise they might not hear it.

"People many miles away might see the flash, hear the explosion or see the mushroom-shaped cloud. In that case, even if no other warning had been given, it should be assumed that radioactive fallout might arrive."

Farmers should wash and peel any fruit and vegetables covered with radioactive dust before eating them, and feed "cereal crops which have been badly affected by radiation only to livestock." Mr John Home-Robertson said yesterday that it was "seems to publish the leaflet only a week before the international Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment considers the nuclear winter thesis."



Playing a violin worth £286,000, Viktoria Mullova rehearses Mendelssohn's concerto with her conductor, Claudio Abbado, at London's Barbican Centre. Miss Mullova is performing the work with the LSO at the Barbican today on the Stradivarius which has been loaned to her for five years by the foundation which bought it at Sotheby's in April. Picture by Frank Martin.

Mothers suffer from collapse of pioneer maternity service

By Andrew Veitch,
Medical Correspondent

Expectant mothers are suffering because of the suspension of the pioneer consultant Mrs Wendy Savage, over five allegations of malpractice, the country's three leading maternity groups said yesterday.

They urged Tower Hamlets health authority to reinstate Mrs Savage, who pioneered the maternity service in community clinics in the east end of London. They also want an investigation into practices by other consultants at the London Hospital.

Women are being forced to queue in overcrowded hospital clinics because the other consultants are not prepared to go

out to the community clinics previously run by Mrs Savage. It is claimed. No consultant is taking personal responsibility for short stay and home births, and women are no longer being allowed to keep their own obstetric records.

The warnings come from the National Childbirth Trust, the Maternity Alliance and Amn, the Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services.

Mrs Savage, who this week was awarded the highest honour of her specialty, fellowship of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, denies the allegations. An inquiry is expected in the autumn.

The three groups said yesterday that long queues at hospital clinics meant that those who most needed antenatal care were least likely to seek it.

Ten MPs, including Mrs Renee Short, the chairwoman of the Commons social services committee, and Mr Frank Dobson, Labour's health spokesman, have tabled a motion calling on Tower Hamlets health authority to reinstate Mrs Savage "and to applaud her dedication."

He told the conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Bristol that crime had never been so bad but police, prisons and the customs were having their manpower and spending restricted.

Anderton attacks political policing

By Stephen Cook

The Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, Mr James Anderton, attacked the Government and local authorities yesterday for becoming "the willing instrument of unscrupulous politicians."

He told the conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Bristol that crime had never been so bad but police, prisons and the customs were having their manpower and spending restricted.

I would liken our modern police force to a luxury liner that has suddenly hit heavy seas, and now we are shipping water and frantically checking our prized cargo overboard in order to stay afloat, aided and abetted by the Home Office," he said.

His speech was warmly received, although it had been reminded by the Home Office minister, Mr Giles Shaw, the previous day that police manpower had risen by 12,000 and spending by 154 per cent since 1979.

Mr Anderton said his force was unable to attend to the damage, nuisance and petty crime which worried people most, or get to grips with large scale crime. He had never known so many demands on police and at times felt "quite helpless."

The new Police and Criminal Evidence Act placed still more duties on the police, he said, and when there was a demonstration about it outside his headquarters recently, he was "tempted to tell my officers not to bother to police it but to go out and join the protesters."

He attacked Lord Scarman's report on the 1981 riots as "a cruel indictment of police" and saying its recommendation of mandatory police community consultation was an error.

Our results are still achieved through our own police-led contacts and not through politically-formalised structures," he said.

It had been a mistake to make police authorities rather than chief constables responsible for public consultation under the new police act, he said.

His broad conclusion had not been challenged by other defence economists and were similar to those reached by Mr David Green, director of the School of Defence Studies at Aberdeen University.

Gummer retaliates on Trident

By Michael Parkin

Mr John Gummer, chairman of the Conservative Party, accused a researcher yesterday of "political axe-grinding" for saying that the Trident missile programme's cost could reduce spending on other military projects by more than a third.

A report on a defence spending review by Mr Malcolm Chalmers of Bradford University's school of Peace Studies, appeared in the Guardian yesterday. He said that a 10 per cent cut in spending on conventional new equipment would still be needed, even if the cost of Trident was spread evenly across the defence budget with economies in spare ammunition construction and manpower.

Mr Gummer said in a radio interview that it was a pity that Mr Chalmers's views were cloaked in an academic paper because it was really a political opinion. "He doesn't like Trident and he doesn't want us to have it. It is not a view which I think has anything to do with the facts of the world in which we live."

Mr Chalmers said that Mr Gummer was blaming the messenger for the message. His purpose was not to discuss the case for or against Trident but to quantify the effect that the Government's determination to go ahead with it would have on other areas of defence.

His broad conclusion had not been challenged by other defence economists and were similar to those reached by Mr David Green, director of the School of Defence Studies at Aberdeen University.

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Travelling back in time

BBC radio four's travel and transport programme, Going Places, is to return to its old slot, starting at 8.30 pm on Friday evenings, because of popular demand.

The programme will be brought back from its present starting time of 4 pm when the next series begins in September.

NEWS IN BRIEF Union rejects merger

PLANS for a new union to face up to British Telecom and the Post Office received a setback yesterday. The 164,000-strong National Communications Union voted at its Blackpool conference to reject proposals to an amalgamate with the Union of Communications Workers, which has 195,000 members.

The UCU conference had approved a scheme by leaders of the two unions, the largest in the Post Office and BT. A common union with two autonomous groups would have been set up later this year.

It was intended under full amalgamation later to reorganise membership with all Post Office workers in one group and those with BT in another. The plan was rejected by 58,724 to 61,688 in a card vote.

Some delegates believed that the changes were being pushed through too quickly and others pointed to demarcation disputes between the two unions as jobs were being reorganised under new technology.

Christian Aid picks director



THE Reverend Michael Taylor, (above) principal of the Northern Baptist College in Manchester and a lecturer in ethics and theology at Manchester University, has been appointed director of Christian Aid writes Penny Chorlton.

He replaces the Reverend Dr Charles Elliott, who resigned last September over disagreements about the style, content and future shape of the organisation, which provides relief and development assistance in more than 100 countries.

Liverpool bishops going to Turin

ARCHBISHOP Derek Worlock and Bishop David Sheppard agreed yesterday to join Liverpool City Council's all-party delegation to visit Turin, home of the Juventus football club, from June 17 to 19. The visit is to repair Anglo-Italian relations after the Brussels tragedy.

Whale is offered home at Windsor

NEWS, the 1½ ton killer whale languishing in a 10 foot deep swimming pool at the end of Clacton pier, was yesterday offered a new home at Windsor Safari Park by its general manager, Mr Terry Watkins.

Actor dies

GORDON Rollings, who built a cult following as the star of John Smith's Yorkshire Bitter adverts, died yesterday after a "courageous battle" against cancer, his agent said. Rollings, aged 58, who appeared in early episodes of Coronation Street, died in Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, after treatment for cancer of the throat.

ILO may take Britain to court

From Iain Guest
in Geneva

A special committee of the International Labour Organisation has accused the British Government of violating a key international labour law by banning trade unions at the Cheltenham GCQC.

It has suggested that the issue be taken before the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

The recommendation, which could prove acutely embarrassing for Britain, is made by a panel of 20 international lawyers who report each year on how governments are applying the ILO's labour conventions. The British member of the committee is Sir John Wood, chairman of the Central Arbitration Committee.

The recommendation was prompted by a TUC complaint that the union ban at the GCQC violates the ILO convention 87, allowing for the right to form independent trade unions.

This convention, which Britain ratified in 1949, is considered the most important of all ILO conventions. It has been the basis for harsh Western criticism of Poland, Rumania and the Soviet Union.

The committee's report is due to be discussed at the ILO annual conference which began here yesterday. The TUC delegation to the conference is expected to press hard for the recommendation on Cheltenham to be accepted.

This is the second time that an ILO body has found against the government over the GCQC ban.

Following the TUC complaint, Britain told the committee that another convention, on work in the public sector, does allow for certain exceptions to be made when national security is affected and that logically the same exceptions should apply to convention 87.

Even if the TUC complaint does not go to the Hague, observers here agree that it is still highly unlikely that Britain to find itself in the same position as the Soviet Union, which has also been accused by the ILO of suppressing free trade unions.

In its report, the ILO committee complains that the introduction of secret ballots and the new rules on political funding that were introduced in the 1984 trade union act infringe convention 87.

Dr David Owen, the Social Democratic Party leader, accuses the Government of "blind stubbornness and sheer incompetence" by banning trade unions at GCQC in the case of the Sunday Express. The paper produced 100,000 unionists who still remain at the intelligence-gathering centre based in Cheltenham.

He says the Alliance is committed to restoring union rights there with a "no strike" agreement.

Mr Albert Booth

In some editions of the Guardian yesterday some comments dismissive of Mr Ken Livingstone's candidacy for the Labour Party's leadership were incorrectly ascribed to Mr Albert Booth. The remarks were, in fact, made by Mr Roy Hattersley.

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE			
Austria	26 p	France	100 p
Belgium	9.00 fr	Italy	2,000 lire
Denmark	12.00 kr	Spain	1,000 pes
Finland	8.00 mk	Sweden	170 s
Germany	3.50 dm	Switzerland	3 fr

Wiltshire police watch hippy camp

By Stephen Cook

Police in Wiltshire are keeping a close watch on the growing number of travellers and hippies who have set up camp in the Savernake Forest after the break-up of their convoy to Stonehenge last Saturday.

The campers are expecting an undisturbed weekend, however, before Monday's attempts by the Forestry Commission to obtain a High Court order requiring them to leave. The sheriff would be empowered to use the police to enforce the order.

Some campers may try to stay, and some still intend to

reach Stonehenge for a summer solstice festival in defiance of earlier court orders obtained by the National Trust and other landowners. One vehicle bore the words: "Stonehenge is our birthright."

Many are still trying to recover their vehicles from a council pound where they were taken after more than 500 people were arrested last week. Police say some vehicles are being held as evidence for prosecutions, but most can be removed.

One owner, Mr Greg Clark said that the police were refusing to release his coach, which had not been involved in any trouble.

"They are delaying at making excuses, and these people's homes. Some people have been sleeping here in rain all night while the police messes them about," he said.

Mr Robert Tuck arrived with a solicitor yesterday but failed to get his "mobile home" released. "It wasn't damaged last Saturday, but now the police have taken up all the furniture inside," he said. "It's completely legal vehicle, with all the documents."

His solicitor said he had been referred to the fore chief officers, but a court order might have to be sought to retrieve the vehicle.

Mengele dental records sent to Brazil, but doubts persist

Germans relieved as Stroessner calls off trip

From Anna Tomforde in Bonn and Jan Rocha in Sao Paulo

The President of Paraguay, General Stroessner, yesterday called off his planned visit to West Germany—bitterly attacked by German critics who claimed he was sheltering the Nazi war criminal, Josef Mengele—while Brazilian forensic scientists state examining the supposed corpse of the "Angel of Death".

The German Government expressed relief at the general's decision. "We are not bothered by the world will not collapse if he does not come," a government spokesman said. In Paraguay, the regime was declaring itself vindicated by the alleged discovery of Mengele's remains in a cemetery at Embu, near Sao Paulo.

Despite continued scepticism among Nazi-hunters in Europe and America, police in Sao Paulo remained insistent that the body was that of the infamous doctor from Auschwitz.

The couple, Wofram and Lisette, told reporters they had first met the man in 1970 in Sao Paulo, but it was not until one or two years later that he had told them he was Mengele.

The real Mengele also had a defect in his left hand arising from a childhood accident. Inspector Tuma said that the

body was buried with its hands at its sides, according to SS custom, instead of with the hands crossed over the breast as is usual in Brazil.

The dead man—who was killed in a swimming accident in 1979—lived under the identity of Wolfgang Bernhard, the name of the man whom the Brazilians now claim introduced Mengele to them. He lived with the Brossetts on the outskirts of Sao Paulo, at Eldorado Paulista, where a neighbour who remembers him said he always carried a Mauser pistol, spoke with a heavy accent, and "talked of Europe," but never of Germany.

The Brossetts said that Mengele was visited by his son, Rolf, who entered Brazil with false papers two years before his father died. The son allegedly came back after his death to collect his father's belongings, but left behind photographs showing the alleged Mengele grey-haired and with a moustache.

The tip-off which led Brazilian police to his grave was said by the German authorities to have come from a "bragging" former manager at the Mengele's engineering firm in the Bavarian town of Garmisch, after the reward on Mengele's head was raised to \$2.5 million earlier this year.

The Frankfurt public prosecutor, Mr. Hans-Joachim Klein, who has been in charge of the hunt for Mengele for the past 10 years said yesterday that the man who disclosed the information was now being investigated on suspicion of obstructing the course of justice.

A search of the man's house had brought to light correspondence which showed Mengele could have died six years ago in Brazil, where he had probably been living since 1955. No diary had been found.

But two of the most famous Nazi-hunters, Wiesenthal and Mr. Beate Klarsfeld, said yesterday that the reports of Mengele's death could be intended to protect him.

The 72-year-old Paraguayan president who is himself of German descent called off his trip after months of criticism of his authoritarian style of leadership and allegations that German authorities had already sent Mengele's dental records which would be compared with the teeth.

The real Mengele also had a defect in his left hand arising from a childhood accident. Inspector Tuma said that the



Symbol of the Russian nation: the towering 170ft-high statue of the Motherland, outside Volgograd.

Russians banned from parade after ramming incident

From Anna Tomforde in Bonn

Britain yesterday protested to Moscow and banned Soviet military representatives from the Queen's birthday parade in West Berlin after an incident in East Germany during which Russian soldiers rammed a British military vehicle and threatened its occupants with guns.

The incident last Tuesday was confirmed by a Rhine Army spokesman yesterday. It came 10 weeks after Major Arthur Nicholson, an officer attached to the American military liaison mission in Potsdam, was shot dead by a Soviet sentry.

The spokesman said that the Russians rammed and damaged the Mercedes cross-country vehicle in which a British officer and two soldiers were travelling, hurled bricks and shovels at it, and later threatened the British personnel with their weapons.

The British car was parked off a main road where a Russian convoy was passing, he added.

The incident happened 31 miles outside a restricted military area, and five miles south of the Polish border.

The members of the British military patrol mission were released after being held for more than five hours.

In protest against the incident, an invitation to Soviet military representatives to attend the ceremony yesterday, where Prince Charles took the 1926, but her birthday is officially celebrated on June 7.

other East bloc military representatives and Soviet diplomats were present.

The spokesman said that the Soviet soldiers took away a bag with personal and military papers, which they later returned. The commander-in-chief of the British army on the Rhine, General Sir Nigel Bagnall, has protested to the Soviet authorities at the "serious incident".

After the fatal shooting of Major Nicholson, near Schweinfurt, last March, allied sources revealed that there were frequent incidents in both East and West Germany involving members of military missions set up under post-war agreements.

The Russians accused Major Nicholson of spying, and did not apologise for the shooting or offer compensation. They are believed, however, to have instructed greater restraint.

The US State Department said in April that the Russians had agreed not to use force against members of the US mission.

More than 1,000 soldiers, led by columns of armoured vehicles and mounted troops, took part in the parade, near Berlin's Olympia Stadium. Squads of West Berlin mounted police marched with the troops, the first time Germans have taken part in the parade.

Formations of British military helicopters flew overhead in salute.

Prince Charles, who watched the parade from a reviewing stand, was by back to London later in the day. The Queen was born on April 21, 1926, but her birthday is officially celebrated on June 7.

Remodelling the face of Igor, after 800 years

THE RUSSIAN yearning for national unity received its first literary expression 800 years ago in the heroic epic, The Lay of the Host of Igor. Now historians seem to have shown that Prince Igor was not as Russian as he has been represented

From Martin Walker in Moscow

EXACTLY 800 YEARS ago, the great Prince Igor, of the ruling dynasty of Kiev, rode off into the eastern steppes with his doomed army. In the course of a three-day battle with the "barbarian" Polovtsy, he met a heroic defeat but inspired the first great work of Russian literature.

The Lay of the Host of Igor, a short narrative poem in six cantos, is to Russian literature what Beowulf and Chaucer are to English. The poem's literary merit and cultural significance for Russian nationhood, combined with the praise of East Marx himself, who called it "a great appeal to the Russian princes to unite their forces on the eve of the Mongol invasion," has led the Soviet authorities to mark this year's 800th anniversary of the battle and the poem with a series of cultural festivals.

The manuscript of the poem was found in the library of the Monastery of Transfiguration, at Yaroslavl, in the late 18th century, and this is now being restored to look exactly as it did 200 years ago, when the courtly scholar, Musin-Pushkin, launched their first attacks against Russia.

Polovtsy and Russians stood side by side in a vain attempt to beat the Mongols off.

The final bit of evidence in this gruesome case is a biographical sketch of the unique skills of a famous Russian craftsman, Mikhail Gerasimov. It is hard to tell whether he should be

described as pathologist, artist, sculptor, or surgeon. His unique skill was painstakingly to rebuild the face and features of somebody with only the skull to guide him.

He calculated the points on the skull to which the facial muscles were attached, rebuilt them, layer by layer, and finally produced a face. One of his last and "more remarkable" feats was to reproduce from the skull the face of Prince Vsesvolod, Igor's brother. It proved to be almost classically Mongol in its features.

But this reality of the Russian-Polovtsy war as a kind of family feud among the blood relatives of the two classes clashed with the patriotic fervour of the poem itself. In one of the most celebrated passages, Igor's father appeals to the other great princes of Russia, who had taken no part in Igor's quarrel, to join forces against the Polovtsy, "in the name of Russian soil, and to redress the wrongs of the Polovtsy."

The whole of Russia falls into mourning, the poet says. The grass bends down in grief, the trees bow to the earth, and silence falls over the land as even the ploughmen fear to call to one another. Only the crows grow fat on corpses as Russia groans in sorrow.

Then Prince Igor, although wounded, escaped back to Russian soil, the Russian rivers bearing him across their waters, the Russian grass hiding him from the enemy, and the crows fall silent as the land is filled with the sound of nightingales and Russia rejoices.

It is this theme of Russian patriotism, and the call for national unity in the face of the invader, that has recommended the poem to successive Russian regimes—Tsarist as much as Soviet. But the historical grounds for that message now look distinctly shaky.

Still, the historians have redeemed themselves by finally establishing the authenticity of the text itself. The fifteenth-century copy of the original poem which Musin-Pushkin is said to have found in Yaroslavl 200 years ago was burned in the great fire of 1812 which drove Napoleon from Moscow.

Reagan welcomes contra aid decision

From Alex Brummer in Washington

The White House yesterday welcomed the Senate's decision to restore aid to the contra rebels in Nicaragua, but still faces an uphill fight in the Democrat-controlled House to win unfettered assistance.

Although the House leadership is still stinging from President Daniel Ortega's tour of Eastern block capitals, a senior aide to the Speaker, Mr. Tip O'Neill, said yesterday that he was determined to keep the hands of the CIA off any funding approved and to make sure that it was directed at the refugees from the fighting, not those doing the killing.

The Republican Senate, in what is being seen as a significant victory for the President, agreed to \$8 million of aid for the contras over the next few years by 55 votes to 42 late on Thursday night. The money, for "humanitarian purposes," will be channelled through the CIA, and funding for weapons and ammunition will be specifically excluded. Clearly, such an influx of resources will keep the contras very much alive as a serious destabilising force in Nicaragua.

The Senate put aside arguments by Democrats, such as Senator Edward Kennedy, that "humanitarian aid" in effect amounted to logistical support for the contras. However, in the Democrat-controlled House this is seen as a much more telling argument. Aides to the Speaker were clear yesterday that "humanitarian aid," as defined by the Administration, was not acceptable because all that it really amounted to was "non-lethal" aid. The leadership was determined to make sure it was the victims of the war who benefited.

Senator Sam Nunn, whose latest amendment with Senator Richard Lugar won the day, made clear that he was giving his support to prevent Mr. Reagan having an excuse to introduce American troops to the region.

The White House commended the Senate for its vote saying it would "provide support for the freedom fighters who are struggling for liberty and democracy in Nicaragua."

While Democrats are critics of Mr. Ortega, the leadership in the House argues that it is guided by the principle of self-determination for the Nicaraguan people. It believes that recent raids by the Sandinista Government, across its borders, were simply to protect itself from outside assaults. The House is being asked to approve \$27 million in support which would have to be renewed again next spring. It is also seeking to block any role for the CIA and any compromise measure drawn from the resolutions of both houses would likely be far more restrictive than the Administration would care for.

President apologises

Marlboro, N.Y.: A Jewish girl who complained that President Reagan misquoted her during his West German cemetery visit has received a letter from him saying "I humbly apologise" for a mistake he blamed on a well-meaning aide.

The President admitted he misquoted a message from 13-year-old Beth Flom in a speech after his visit on May 5 to Bitburg cemetery.

Mr. Reagan said during the speech that she had supported his decision to lay a wreath at the cemetery honouring "the future of Germany."

"I hope I haven't caused you any embarrassment, and if I have, I humbly apologise. You were more than kind and am truly grateful," Mr. Reagan said in the letter.

"Unfortunately, didn't get to read your entire essay until after my return from Europe, which explains the out-of-context quote," he wrote. One of our people, meaning to be helpful, forwarded the quote I used without reference to the rest of your telegram.—AP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gaol terms demanded

THIS prosecution in the fake Hitler Diaries trial in Hamburg yesterday demanded seven and six-year gaol sentences for the two men accused of selling the forgeries to the West German magazine, Stern. Gerd Heidemann, the magazine's former chief reporter, and Konrad Kujawa, a Nazi memorabilia dealer, were present.

Doctors gaoled

TWO doctors were sentenced to prison terms of six months and 17 months for taking bribes from patients who needed treatment, the Communist party newspaper, Rude Pravo, reported in Prague yesterday. Publication of the two cases is in line with a recent campaign to crack down on bribery and corruption.—AP

Guerrillas killed

FOURTEEN Communist guerrillas and a militiaman were killed in a clash in the mountain village of Dulop, on Mindanao Island, in the Philippines, a military spokesman said yesterday.—Reuters

Shipwreck found

UNDERWATER archaeologists have located the remains of an ancient merchant ship that foundered off a central Aegean island in the third century BC carrying a cargo of wine, government Antiquities service announced in Athens yesterday.—AP

Killer weds

THE killer of a two-year-old girl married the girl's mother in a courtroom in Santa Ana, California, minutes before he was sentenced to 15 years in prison for the murder. Thomas Wyrick had punched and kicked Natalie Martinez to death in the apartment he shared with her mother.—Reuters

Reunited

A JUVENILE supporter who vanished after the riot at the European Cup final in Brussels nine days ago has reappeared in his home city of Turin. Marco Manfredi, aged 40, was reunited with his family after a friend saw him wandering aimlessly through the streets.—Reuters

Seveso waste

THREE tonnes of waste from the leak of poisonous dioxin three years ago at Seveso in Italy will be destroyed starting on June 17, the Basle city administration said yesterday.—Reuters

Gibraltar visit

THE British Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, arrived in Gibraltar yesterday for a two-day visit to discuss the future of the colony four months after the border with Spain was reopened.—Reuters

Pope's tour

THE POPE will visit Australia in November next year and hopes to visit all states, Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Lionel Bowen, said yesterday.—Reuters

Down under

THE world's oldest known oil, formed 1.5 billion years ago, has been found in northern Australia, a government scientist said in Canberra yesterday.—Reuters

GUARDIAN OFFER



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Thatcher asks King Hussein to clarify peace initiative

Soviet role in Middle East talks challenged

By Patrick Keatley,
Diplomatic Correspondent

When King Hussein of Jordan met Mrs Thatcher in London yesterday, he faced close questioning about new moves from Moscow, suggesting that the Middle East settlement envisaged in the Hussein plan should be held under the joint chairmanship of the United States and the Soviet Union.

Mrs Thatcher had already indicated that Britain was opposed to the Jordanian idea of a conference framework that would bring in the five gov-

ernments closely, that the reduction of the great power presence at the conference table from five to two would not in itself win over Mrs Thatcher to the Jordan plan.

The Prime Minister does, however, back the next stage of the plan, by which the Israelis would come to a conference table where those on the other side were a mixed Jordanian-Palestinian team.

Yesterday's talks in Downing Street were also attended by Jordan's Prime Minister, Mr Zaid Rifai, who had been brought at short notice from Amman. Mrs Thatcher was joined by the Minister of State at the Foreign Office dealing with Middle East affairs, Mr Richard Luce.

The talks centred on the plan, originally put forward in simpler form last February, and presented to Mr Reagan in Washington in its latest variant when the King was there last week. This calls for four distinct stages.

The first would be a preliminary meeting between a US delegation and a mixed Jordanian-Palestinian team, which would not include any figures linked to the PLO. The American Government would give formal support to "self-determination for the Palestinians".

The second stage would be another preliminary meeting at which the PLO would be present as part of the Jordanian-Palestinian side. The PLO would then make its formal withdrawal of the pledges in its charter about the extermination of the state of Israel and accept the principles of Israeli security set out in the UN resolutions, 242 and 338.

Thirdly, a formal international conference would be convened with authority derived from the UN.

Finally, there would be the working conference at which there would be direct talks between Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians.

AP adds from Jerusalem: About 50 workers, threatening to blow themselves up rather than face unemployment, yesterday refused to leave a barricaded copper mine in the Negev desert, Israeli army radio reported.

Employees of the Timna mine, 16 miles north of the Red Sea port of Eilat, entered the second night of siege. Twelve of the barricaded miners locked themselves up in an underground room next to a warehouse they said was full of explosives.



Jubilant Israeli troops celebrate crossing the border into Israel after withdrawing from Lebanon

Eitan wanted to hand PLO to Phalange

Ian Black reports from Jerusalem on a Mossad-army rift

THE CHIEF of staff of the army during the war in Lebanon, General Rafael Eitan, has proposed that PLO prisoners held in the Ansur detention camp be handed over to the Christian Phalangist, who later massacred hundreds of Palestinians in the Sabra and Chatilla camps near Beirut, it was alleged yesterday.

The proposal, which was opposed by the head of the Mossad secret intelligence service, was never implemented. According to Mr Ze'ev Schiff, the military correspondent of the Ha'aretz newspaper, the consequences of such a handover must have been clear to General Eitan at the time.

Mr Schiff, the co-author of the best-selling book, Israel's Lebanon War, shows in a long and detailed article that the advice of the Mossad, the

pioneer of Israel's links with the Lebanese Christians, was to keep Israel's links with and commitment to the Christians at a low level, and was deeply concerned by their lack of military prowess and the unreliability of the information transmitted by them to his operatives in the field.

At one point before the war, the report says, Mossad agents foiled a Phalangist plot to assassinate the pro-Syrian Lebanese President, Mr Suleiman Franjeh.

According to Mr Schiff, who is renowned for his sources in the most sensitive parts of the Israeli defence establishment, Mossad officials still believe that the Phalangists launched their provocative assault against Syrian commandos at Zahle in April, 1981, after being secretly given approval by the Israeli army.

The then head of the Mossad, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, wanted to keep Israel's links with and commitment to the Christians at a low level, and was deeply concerned by their lack of military prowess and the unreliability of the information transmitted by them to his operatives in the field.

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down two Syrian troop transports described, at the time to the Cabinet in Jerusalem as a "helicopter gunships" — was followed by the deployment of Syrian surface-to-air missile batteries in Lebanon, now seen as having brought the war significantly closer.

Mr Schiff describes the Mossad's warm relationship with the Phalangist leader, Mr Bashir Gemayel, whose assassination by Syrian agents in September, 1982, brought on the Sabra and Chatilla massacres of Palestinians and the end of Mr Sharon's hopes of a pro-Israeli, Christian regime in Beirut.

The Israeli secret service's links with his brother, Mr Amin Gemayel, the present Lebanese President, were less intimate and more complicated, the report says. At one point, Mr Rabin ordered his agents to break off all contact with Mr Amin Gemayel.

Relief transport used to carry Ramadan sugar

By Jonathan Steele

The Sudanese military government has been diverting lorries from famine relief in the west to supply the people of Khartoum with extra supplies of sugar for the Muslim celebration of Ramadan, according to government officials.

The shift in the use of lorries was announced at a recent meeting with the US Agency for International Development officials. It is only the latest in a long series of transport problems, some easily avoidable and some which have no short-term solution, which have left close to a million people in western Sudan threatened by starvation.

During the month of Ramadan, which began in mid-May, Sudanese Muslims are accustomed to consume an extra high quantity of sweets during the few hours when they are allowed to eat. Although government officials gave no reason for the special programme to bring sugar to the capital, aid workers believe the authorities are anxious to avoid unrest and possible riots in the capital.

For the past few months, aid agencies have been desperately trying to move grain to the west by any means possible. There is already a shortage of lorries. An ambitious scheme to organise a daily convoy of lorries across the desert to the threatened province of Darfur, in the far west, was abandoned.

After months of criticism from non-governmental aid

agencies that it was being inactive, the EEC last week started a daily shuttle of Belgian Hercules aircraft from Khartoum to Darfur. The air bridge, which has been authorised for a "trial period", is carrying about 80 tons a day of high protein food and medicine.

The main means of transport continues to be the railway that runs from Khartoum to Nyala, even though this has been plagued by constant problems, including derailments. The United States embassy urged the new Government in April to make famine relief its highest priority for the railway, and was promised that one train a day carrying roughly 900 tons would be sent. But latest reports from the region this week say that only an average of 275 tons has been getting to Nyala.

Meanwhile, in the eastern part of the country, which has a high concentration of Ethiopian refugees, there are reports that cholera has broken out at the Wad Kawi camp. The camp was closed to visitors in mid-May and journalists have been discouraged from going there.

Like the authorities in Ethiopia, the Sudanese have refused to admit that any cases of cholera have been found and have insisted that the disease be described as "acute gastroenteritis." At Wad Kawi at the end of last month 70 people were suspected of having cholera and five had died. Laboratory tests have since confirmed that some definitely had cholera.

No deadline

NO DEADLINE has yet been given for the completion of Israel's final troop withdrawal from Lebanon, after the failure to complete the process, as promised, by Thursday, the third anniversary of the 1982 invasion, writes Ian Black.

Military sources said, however, that the final pullout of troops is expected to be reached by the middle of next week. There are believed to be several hundred Israeli soldiers still north of the border.

The army commander, General Moshe Levy, said in Tel Aviv that Israeli forces would have to continue to operate in Lebanon because there was no other force there capable of preventing guerrilla attacks against Israel.

The delay in the departure of the bulk of the remaining Israeli troops has been caused by doubts about the ability of the largely Christian South Lebanon Army to keep the peace after the pullback.

Comments with permanent seats on the UN Security Council, plus at least four of Israel's Arab neighbours.

This latest twist in the labyrinthine development of the Jordan plan has emerged after confidential contacts between the King's Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko, and his Jordanian counterpart, Mr Taher al Masri.

Neither Downing Street nor Jordanian sources in London were prepared to comment after the King's talks with Mrs Thatcher. However, it is assumed in Whitehall, and among those MPs at Westminster who follow the Arabis-

Rioters shot by army during protest strike in Gujarat

From our own Correspondent in New Delhi

At least nine people were killed and 15 wounded yesterday in renewed caste violence in Gujarat.

The trouble began in Ahmedabad when about 200 women blocked the road and tried to enforce a protest strike against the reservation of government jobs and college places for members of low castes.

The women were reported to have stopped cars and scooters, let down their tyres, and shouted slogans at the drivers for not observing a strike which was supported by 700,000 public service workers. Clashes between different castes soon broke out in the old walled city, which has been under military control since mid-April.

The mob threw burning rags, acid bulbs and stones, then looted blazing shops. The

army finally opened fire with semi-automatic weapons, killing six of the rioters, and a curfew was imposed. Three others died of stab wounds.

Clashes also took place in Baroda, where the police fired teargas and plastic bullets to disperse the mob.

In the Punjab, the Sikh "genocide week," marking the first anniversary of the Indian

army's assault on the Golden Temple of Amritsar, ended quietly yesterday, but security forces are staying on the alert. In Delhi, official sources said that speeches glorifying violence and celebrating the murder of Mrs Indira Gandhi were being examined to see whether charges should be laid. The speeches were made at a rally inside the Golden Temple complex on Thursday called by the new extremist

Leader comment, page 12

Russians in base blitz

ISLAMABAD: Several hundred Soviet and Afghan commandos have landed by helicopter at Barikot, a rebel-besieged garrison in eastern Afghanistan, as a large ground force aiming to relieve it moved closer, guerrilla sources said yesterday.

They said the commandos, mostly Soviet, landed at the garrison in Kunar province, bordering on Pakistan, in the last few days to help several hundred Afghan troops besieged for about 11 months.

An estimated 8,000 Soviet troops backed by thousands of Afghan soldiers are engaged in the three-week-old offensive in the Kunar valley and some units were now six miles from Barikot, the sources said.

Reports earlier this week said the vanguard force was slogging down 12 miles from the garrison because of stiff resistance and the difficult terrain. An unimproved road was made unusable by guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan Government.

The guerrillas said, however, that the force had moved up the valley, repairing the road, while Soviet helicopters bombed rebel positions. Reuters.

Off to the palace, begum and baggage

From Eric Silver in New Delhi

The begum now standing on platform one has finally pulled out of New Delhi railway station. After squinting in the VIP waiting room for 13 years, the Princess Shehzadi Wilayat Mahal of Oudh has left with her son and daughter, faithful retainers, and a doberman pincher guard dog.

The 63-year-old Muslim aristocrat, who proclaimed herself "heir to the last King of Oudh," has gone, as she always said she would, to a mahal — a palace. The Northern Railway served an eviction order and, with honour satisfied, the begum complied.

The princely family took up residence at the station after their last remaining palace in Lucknow was burned to the ground. The begum insisted that the Government return a smaller palace seized by the British from her great-grandfather in 1857, when he backed the wrong side in the Indian Mutiny.

The Government offered her a suburban house in Lucknow, but the begum rejected it with scorn. "Can you imagine a queen living in a bungalow?" she asked, and refused to budge.

Last month the authorities came up with a solution. The begum was offered Mahal on Sardar Patel Road in New Delhi. This mahal is hardly the Taj of that ilk, and a bungalow would certainly have been more cosy, but the princess judged it fitting.

The building is a 13th century hunting lodge, dating back to the Slave Dynasty. Muslim kings who ruled here before the Moghuls. Until last month it was an overgrown ruin, a home for snakes and lizards, registered as Historic but not protected.

The VIP building at New Delhi railway station was bare and unswart yesterday, with only an empty curtain of Aristocrat single-male Indian whisky to recall its former glory.

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Trying again

The British team which tried unsuccessfully to climb the north-east ridge of Everest returned home yesterday determined to have another attempt at the mountain this autumn.

Members of the 19-strong squad had to abandon the attempt at 27,000 feet because of continuous bad weather and exhaustion.

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Family of shot black get £19,000

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

The Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, has paid £19,000 in an out-of-court settlement to the children of a black man shot dead by a policeman in 1983, counsel for the family confirmed yesterday.

The dead man, Mr Saul Mkhize, was the community leader at Driefontein, a black-owned farm near the South African border with Swaziland in the eastern Transvaal. The farm had been declared a "black spot" and Mr Mkhize spearheaded resistance against attempts to relocate the community.

He was shot dead by Constable J.A. Nienaber at the height of the removal controversy. Mr Nienaber was later acquitted of charges of culpable homicide. He pleaded self-defence.

In a civil action for damages brought on behalf of Mr Mkhize's four children, the police are alleged to have acted "wrongfully and unlawfully."

According to counsel for the family, Mr Arthur Chabalosa, it is not unusual for the accused to be acquitted in a criminal case but for the family of the deceased to be awarded damages in a later civil action.

In another development yesterday, two young black men were sentenced to 10 and five years' jail for killing a three-week-old white baby at the height of the disturbances in townships in the Vaal Triangle last year. Temba Lala, aged 21, and Piet Mubambo, aged 20, were found guilty of culpable homicide, assault and sabotage.

Police yesterday arrested another four blacks in connection with the stoning to death last month of a white nurse, Mrs G. De Lange. She was the second white person to die in township violence which has claimed nearly 400 lives. So far 19 blacks have been arrested in connection with the death of Mrs De Lange.

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INCOME BONDS

Sikh defence hints at family intrigue

New Delhi: The defence in the Indira Gandhi assassination trial said yesterday that Satwant Singh, the surviving accused Sikh gunman, did not shoot her and suggested that the late prime minister's family was involved.

The defence lawyer, Mr Pran Lekhi argued that the case against the three Sikh defendants should be dropped because the charges were illegally filed.

The prosecution has alleged that four Sikhs conspired to kill Mrs Gandhi to avenge last June's army assault on the Amritsar Golden Temple.

Satwant Singh, a member of Mrs Gandhi's security guard, is the main defendant. He is accused of shooting her at her residence on October 31. The other alleged gunman, Beant Singh, was shot dead by police commandos at the scene, according to the Government.

Also on trial and accused of

abetting the crime and conspiracy are Kehar Singh, an uncle of Beant Singh, and Balbir Singh, another security guard at Mrs Gandhi's compound. The three Sikhs watched the proceedings from inside a bullet-proof glass cubicle.

"There is no doubt Mrs Gandhi was shot and she died and someone is responsible," Mr Lekhi said. "That someone is not in the dock. Satwant Singh did not shoot."

Referring to Mrs Gandhi's son and successor Rajiv Gandhi, the lawyer continued, "Someone very far away when he heard about this incident didn't even drop a tear."

Mr Gandhi, who was touring West Bengal when his mother was killed, has confirmed that he did not cry when he heard the news of a radio broadcast. "Who gained the most with shortening the life of Mrs Gandhi?" the lawyer asked.

"Not these three persons. They gained nothing. When there is murder there is a motive. Are they going to succeed to her wealth? Who had the motive inside the family?"

Mr Lekhi described the post-mortem report on Mrs Gandhi's body as a fabricated "ridiculous document."

He alleged that two key government witnesses, Mr M. L. Fotedar and Mr Narayan Singh, both aides to Mrs Gandhi, changed their statements three weeks after the killing. In their first statement they said they only saw the shooting, but later they claimed they heard Satwant Singh and Beant Singh shout, "We have done what we had to do. Now you do what you want."

"Their memory improves with time," Mr Lekhi said. The Government says that Satwant Singh and Beant Singh changed shifts to be on

duty together inside Mrs Gandhi's compound the morning she was shot. But Mr Lekhi said he would prove that "no one had any prior knowledge of Mrs Gandhi's movements, so there could never have been any conspiracy."

The Government, he claimed, had refused to release the post-mortem report on Beant Singh, who was allegedly shot dead in a guard house on the compound after his surrender.

"We want to know which weapon was fired into Beant Singh," he said. "Two murders took place. They are related incidents. No justice can be done by trying half the case."

He claimed that the government-appointed investigating team, headed by Mr S. Anand Ram, was the biased team of officers who have ganged up to do injustice.

The trial resumes on Monday.—AP.

مكتبة الأمل

GRASSROOTS



Crewe cut

FOR almost a century and a half "Change at Crewe" has been among the most familiar phrases in the language, ranking with "Shake the Bottle" and "Please adjust your dress before leaving." Starting this week, and for the next seven, it will have to be withdrawn from circulation. Crewe station is being virtually closed down for that time so that a much needed programme of modernisation can be pushed through.

British Rail is spending over £14 millions on a large list of improvements. A new signalling centre will replace the old North, South, and A boxes, so often the only view for passengers stalled just outside the station. Old track and overhead lines which forced non-stopping trains to crawl through the station are being ripped out, and new ones installed, allowing speeds up to 80 mph. Platforms will be re-allocated, and some lengthened to accommodate longer trains, and, of course, something will be done for passengers who have to wait for their connections. Waiting-rooms, buffet bars, bookstalls, and toilets are being remodelled and extended.

Until all this is done there will be no more injunctions to change at Crewe, and in the ensuing silence it becomes possible to ask questions which would normally be drowned in the banging of carriage doors and the grinding of wheels over points. Why was this most celebrated of junctions set down apparently in the middle of nowhere? How is it that while almost everyone has been to Crewe station, scarcely anyone seems to have visited Crewe town? What sort of place do those intrepid few who stray from the security of the station find? Does it produce anything but railway engines and railways?

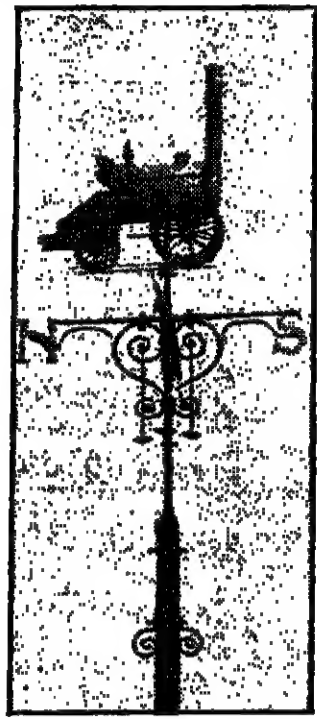
How and why the railways came to Crewe is a well documented story, although there are still some gaps in it. Briefly, the 1820s and 1830s saw the early railway age — saw various schemes to better communications between the Midlands' manufacturing towns around Birmingham, the Potteries, and the industrial and commercial centres of the North-west from Manchester to Liverpool.

Some 40 years later, never beyond the planning and paper stage, but by the early 1840s four lines linking Manchester, Warrington, and Birmingham with the Midlands came together at a village called Monks Copperhall where a station had been built in 1837 and named Crewe after a local family seat. So much is certain, but there is an intriguing mystery surrounding the choice of Monks Copperhall — not then, any more than now, a name to conjure with, Nantwich, an old and sizeable town, as well as a road and canal centre, must have seemed the first

option. Why was it not picked?

There is a strong clue in the biography of George and Robert Stephenson which recounts that while making a survey in the mid-twenties George called upon the local landowners to get their consent, and found that the agents of the canal companies had preceded him and spread wicked lies about the effects of railways. In particular they described the locomotive as "a most frightful machine emitting breath as poisonous as the dragons of old, and told them that if a bird flew over the district where one of these engines passed, it would inevitably drop down dead." Not surprisingly the landowners were less than welcoming and demanded high prices for their acres.

Whether the burghers of Nantwich ever regretted their cold response is not known. Probably they didn't, because Crewe quickly became the anathema to the independent-minded — a company town. From the outset the Grand Junction Railway Company (which later gave way to the London and North Western Railway, and later still to the London, Midland and Scottish) owned and controlled almost everything in Crewe. It built houses, roads, schools, churches, and even provided the public utilities, sewers, water and gas, for an increasing population which reached 40,000 by the turn of the century. In 1877 the town was



The most famous railway junction in the land shut down this week for £14 million improvements. But how did it come to be there in the first place? Harry Whewell seeks the answers, with pictures by Denis Thorpe of work on the line and of the locomotive on Crewe town hall roof

granted a charter of incorporation, but this did little to shake the hold of the company. The list of mayors and the list of company chief engineers mirrored each other, and it was not until the passing of the Crewe Corporation Act in 1938 that the grip was broken.

One of the best known chief engineers was Francis Webb, and his methods stood as a model to the others. The way he used his power is described by Hamilton Ellis in his *British Railway History*. "As head of the works he was an absolute autocrat not only inside it but out. He coerced politically those under his command. He coerced them religiously. His foremen were unexceptionally Conservative, and intimidation of the rank and

file through these was reduced to a system. That rank and file was predominantly Liberal and Nonconformist.

For example, the living at St Paul's, Crewe, was in the gift of the railway, and to it Webb appointed in 1879 his brother. The church had been poorly supported. It was now filled on Sundays. The foremen, formed into a committee, saw to that on behalf of the brother. But for the intense loyalty to the company, Francis Webb's Crewe might have blown its lid off like a South American republic.

It would be fanciful to think that it was this pattern of tight, inverted, authoritarian rule that warned off the canal visitor to Crewe, and inhibited the beleaguered traveller from even wandering off the platform. More likely it is a not undeserved reputation for drabness. It is true that the town has a new shopping centre with pedestrian malls and raised flower beds. It must also be said that there are some splendidly colourful parks within its boundaries. But none of this alters the fact that the main impression given to the visitor is of an inner suburb of a large industrial town raised from its place by the Iron Age and the Wear, and dropped down in the Cheshire plain.

Not all towns, however, are built or run with the visitor in mind. Work for the native seems to many a more fitting

preoccupation, and here Crewe for all its company town character — has never rested on its oars. One of the earliest alternative industries was furrier cutting, introduced in 1869. The precise nature of the trade is, at this remove, difficult to fathom. Suffice it to say that it had to do with corduroy and moleskin, may have been an inverted form of moquette cutting, and started a tradition of textile connection which continues to this day in the guise of high class ready-made gents' clothing. Cheese-making was another early and obvious enterprise, and other agriculturally based manufactures have been a persistent minor feature down the years.

In the depression years of the 1890s Crewe suffered with the rest of the North-west, and only looked up in 1939 when the government decided to put a new Rolls-Royce factory making aero engines for the rearmament programme in the town. Here the Merlin engines which powered the Spitfires were built throughout the war, and after it the plant was adapted to turn out Rolls-Royce cars, which it still does. Other famous names have joined it since, the Wellcome Foundation, Air Products, and Twinlock among them.

And through it all over the years, the decades, and the centuries, the railway connection has been maintained, and from time to time

strengthened. After the junction was established in 1840 the next step was the opening of the Grand Junction Company workshops in 1843. These eventually became the most comprehensive and integrated railway workshops anywhere in the world. They made their own steel and from it they made rails, locomotives, and all the mechanical equipment to run a full-scale railway operation. As a by-product they turned out engineers who designed and built other countries' railway systems from Malaya to the Argentine.

On the operating side Crewe's location turned out to have many advantages. When it became possible to run services from London to Scotland there was Crewe half way between and just the place to change engines and crews. When electrification succeeded steam, Crewe produced the power units, and was no less a hub in the web of passenger and freight services. On an average day 133 inter-city and 162 local trains pass through it, plus 120 freight services. Each year the station handles 3 million parcels bags, and 1.1 million mailbags for the Post Office. Around 1 million passengers make journeys starting at Crewe, and 6 million change trains there. Other parts of the railway system may wither or be cut down, but Crewe seems to believe it has a future as long as its past and is confidently building for it.

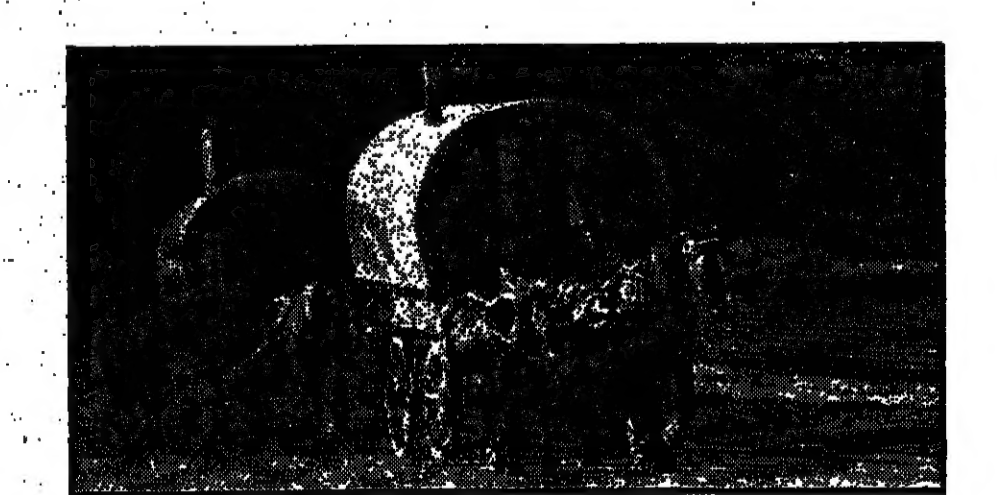
I HAVE come all over D. H. Lawrence — not surprising at this time of year. Even a blind American could not miss the delicate delights of this Pennine season, but I am Laurence on the horizon of the hill I can see Real Men. Not your over-civilised effete literati and professionals with whom I normally associate; but Real Men — with dark curly hair! with horse-drawn caravans! with Romany blood and wandering in their nature! with hand-whittled clothes pegs and bunches of lucky heather!

Reliable as swallows, the gypsies return every year on their way to the annual horse fair. Also like swallows, they make a short stay with us on their mysterious migrations. Beautiful to look at, the very essence of summer, but also like swallows, more picturesque than convincing. Swallows splutter mud all over the walls of your newly painted house in their attempts to get a really good nest up. Then they spit it out. You can see it on the wall while you sunbathe in the garden, in your coffee, and on the Sunday papers. The disadvantage of the gypsies is that they liberate everything that is not actually nailed down and anchored with pre-stressed concrete blocks.

This tradition of "borrowing" is endured by our neighbours as some sort of extra rite. No one likes it, but equally no one can imagine a world in which these unjust and erratic depredations did not take place. (Conservative rate reformers, please note.) At a friend's house recently, she was telling me how, and only in dressing, a purple slipper, she had rescued a gypsy down the lane to rescue the family's morning milk supply.

Her story was interrupted by a shrill whistle from the yard. Bareback, astride a good quality pony, sat a broken-toothed grey, a dozen or so years old, scrunching and grating for his pony. He said nothing, but he was all over the place, that around the bend in the lane were discovered conifers, a half a dozen other ponies of whom would be inside the gate. He grinned, unabashed when he heard there was no spare grass. Could he spare some hay? Some straw? Some

PENNINE WAYS: Kate Wedd continues her tales of the family that has abandoned town life for a moorland cottage



Gypsies are not what they were. No dark mysterious eyes have gazed into mine and reduced me to a D. H. Lawrence state of quivering passivity. If that were not a bad enough departure, they don't even steal children any more

wonderfully warm days has inspired me with enthusiasm. Nature is not for my half-acre of stuff. With the arrival of soft winds and warm rain I have become a garden nutter. Every half-decent day sees Toots and I heaving rocks and digging in the mud with grim determination, and after every market day we come down the hill like Birnam Wood with shrubs and trees waving over our heads.

I swear I am an economical housekeeper and a stingy dresser, but put me in a garden centre and my cheque book burns a hole in my pocket. I buy shrubs and bedding plants and even a small tree without a thought

of how I am to get them in the car, let alone down the footpath. Nature is not for my half-acre of stuff. With the arrival of soft winds and warm rain I have become a garden nutter. Every half-decent day sees Toots and I heaving rocks and digging in the mud with grim determination, and after every market day we come down the hill like Birnam Wood with shrubs and trees waving over our heads.

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and wagged their ears at me and continued with their meal. A party of hikers heard the noise and checked their map to see if they had strayed from the footpath and I was an irate landowner.

I banged again, the rabbits took no notice, but the hikers were getting nervous. They folded the map and strode off to see if they had strayed from the footpath and I was an irate landowner.

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I banged again, the rabbits took no notice, but the hikers were getting nervous. They folded the map and strode off to see if they had strayed from the footpath and I was an irate landowner.

the roots among some concealing daffodils. She trampled the yellow blooms in her haste to get the one remaining leaf in a vase. I wanted to know if this was really where Theodosius killed the minotaur with one strike. The bishop glistened with classical allusion. "Ah, you must be familiar with the pericope: it was indeed where these, yes, ended the miners' strike." I gave him an incredulous look but he only grinned and said, "minotauricide is a fine business. I give you no bull!"

DAY FIVE ... Lay in the sun and speculated about Pandora and all the evils let loose into the world. "Oh dear no," said the bishop, "she was a much abused and familiar ancestor of Pan Dora who keeps the Pheidippides chip shop for the run runners on the plain of Marathon." He was on his second bottle of retsina that morning. "Course, no one ever ran at Marathon — it's a chocolate bar by the company that sponsors these cruises."

DAY SIX ... A real treat — to the Oracle at Delphi. "Always spoke ambiguities," said our guide, "and was of quite indeterminate sex — a classical metonym for the General Synod." A huge forest. "Ah yes, the 'sticks' associated with Achilles." "But I thought — Achilles' heel and all that." "Yes, he was quite a heel — Hephaestus never did get paid for that suit of armour."

DAY SEVEN ... The exodus from Egypt became wonderfully alive as we sailed out of the Red Sea. The Bishop was in full spate: "Yes, a startling piece of politico-cultural parallelism, actually. Refers to the South Bank of the Red Sea — the very left wing diocese of Southwark." Ararat, where the ark came to rest? He looked rather disdainful. "Not really — just where an earlier cruise carrying a few animal rights people got itself landlocked. An allegorical tale. No-A-ah! No Animals Harmed — ge-diddit!"

DAY EIGHT ... We sailed past the coast of Palestine and saw Mount Carmel. Very impressive in the thunder and lightning. "Wasn't that where God poured down fire on the unbelievers?" For once our guide was silent.

Yorkshire vicar Peter Mullen goes moonlighting with the bishop

Cruise misses isles

THE REVELATION that university teachers are now moonlighting in order to supplement their meagre salaries makes me think that the bishops might do the same. In fact, the Bishop of Durham has already confessed in one of the Sunday colour magazines that he has for years been acting as a sort of guide-cum-classics-master on cruises around the Greek Islands. I noticed an advertisement in Church Times for one of these trips: "of E (revised) Heritage Cruises. Big Reductions. Classical and Biblical History Explained Away While You Tan." We spent a marvellous eight days.

DAY ONE ... The bishop in sparkling form. As we passed the island of Circe he got himself tied to the ship's funnel while the chief steward played old tapes of the On Sunday. The rest of us wore ear plugs. Landed on the island of Patmos. "Tell me, bishop, isn't this where St. John the Divine wrote the Book of Revelation?" "Er, um, yes, that's right — I mean, no — or at any rate not quite. Apocalypse, you see, St. John had a speech impediment. Not Apocalypse but a proper lisp. Patmos — a phonic anagram of Spot 'em. John used to come here train spotting. As it says in the hymn — "with his angel train." The evening was balmy, too.

DAY TWO ... Very hot. North Africa. Bishop very instructive. "Now you see why St. Augustine said: 'Then came I to Carthage, burning, burning.' Sunstroke. The dunes are always full of it up to some very unoriginal sinning."

Ms Charybdis, who was always to be found blocking the gangway to the loo when anyone had a touch of the Delphic, asked if we were near the place where Phaeton flew too close to the sun. "Ah — we must avoid the literalist trap," he smiled, dangling his feet in the swimming pool. "Phaeton was a part of the myth of the conflict story or streitgesprache, as my old friend Prof Bullmann — he did the Existentialist Foot-sloggers — Demythologising Tour of Wagner's Ring in the Black Forest — used to say Phaeton and the sun — it's a kermatic prophecy about Fleet Street. Right on at the Sun about the good news. Gospel means good news, don't you know?"

DAY THREE ... Bumped into Mr Tebbitt on the bank of the Cyclops, which is really, of course, as the bishop explained, a contraction of "cycle shops." Went on to Stagia and inquired about Aristotle. "Oh, yes, he was an off-litence by the way. Immortalised in the (Mony) Pythion and Raameses dihyramb Harry Stotle, Harry Stotle was a bugger for the bottle. Often drunk. Best epistemologist of them all, so they say."

DAY FOUR ... To Crete. "Daedalus and the labyrinth" — only a couple of Synecdoches for Dead Loss Tours who were always losing people. I wanted to know if this was really where Theodosius killed the minotaur with one strike. The bishop glistened with classical allusion. "Ah, you must be familiar with the pericope: it was indeed where these, yes, ended the miners' strike." I gave him an incredulous look but he only grinned and said, "minotauricide is a fine business. I give you no bull!"

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Hope End: organic vegetables and a waitress

David Wickers makes a choice of independent and interesting hotels in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire

Half a dozen good reasons Wye

Hope End

HOPE END (in the Herefordshire sense of "small valley," not keeping your fingers crossed) offers a slightly unorthodox brand of excellence, one that is really a natural extension to the lifestyle of owners John and Patricia Hegarty. "One look at the cars outside will give a good clue as to our typical guests," commented John. "You'll find a high proportion of national Trust and RSPB stickers, walking boots and plants bought from the local nurseries in the boot, detailed guide books on the back shelf plus a copy of whatever they have been meaning to read for the past few months but could never find the time. Until now."

Recently awarded a Michelin "M" rating for their restaurant (one of only 30 hotels in the country to receive it) the Hegarty's were early advocates of English "real" or wholefood cooking, their ingredients drawn either from their own organically nurtured acre of 18th-century walled garden or the surrounding countryside, one of the richest areas in Britain.

"Our fixed five course menu, which changes daily, bridges that peculiar divide that normally exists between gardeners and cooks."

There are just seven, pine-furnished rooms which mostly overlook the courtyard and, rub your eyes, a minaret. Once the childhood home of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Hope End sits in 40 wooded, silent acres.

Hope End Country House Hotel, Hope End, Ledbury, Herefordshire, tel 0531 3613. Closed November till February. Dinner, bed and breakfast between £39 and £42.

Pengethley

LITERALLY the "house on the hill," Pengethley's obvious strongpoints are its bright Georgian looks, an out-of-town location (some four miles north of Ross on Wye), commanding views and, comes summer, a heated outdoor pool. It is also a very professionally-run establishment manned by polished, friendly staff, headed by an enthusiastic owner called Andrew Sime. He is also Nelson's great, great, great, great (I think that was all) nephew, "hence the Nelsonian theme to our decor," he explained from somewhere behind a bushy, distinctly nautical beard.

The Pengethley food is fresh and mostly local (the lamb grazes below your bedroom window, the chickens free range in the back yard and the

vegetables and soft fruits flourish in a walled garden). Cooking is ornate with an abundance of en croute capings and creamy sauces. There are 20 moily-styled bedrooms and a fleet of public rooms.

Pengethley, Nr Ross on Wye, Herefordshire, tel 098987 211. B&B: £30. Dinner: £14.

Upper Orchard

BOTH WALKERS and wine drinkers are keen patrons of Upper Orchard, a tall pink house beside the banks of the Wye. The walkers come to be inspired by Heather Hurley's spider's web of suggested walks, all mapped, described and housed in sensible waterproof wallets and stretching from two to 14 miles in length. Husband John's previous life as a wine merchant accounts for the other special interest; he organises highly popular wine-tasting weekends from mid-February till the end of May and from mid-September till Christmas. For the rest of the year Upper Orchard caters for what the Hurleys call "normal people". Walkers, wine bibbers and normals all share an enthusiasm for the Aga roasts, home grown vegetables and the simple but comfy rooms.

Upper Orchard, Hoorwithy, Herefordshire, tel 043270 549.

B&B: £7.50. Dinner: £4. Wine weekends from £52 to £58 including half-board accommodation and wines (the price being determined by what's under scrutiny).

Rhydspence

RHYDSPENCE is, first and foremost, a pub — Egon Ronay's "24 'Pub of the Year' in fact. The hill farmers and other locals who come to swirl real ales, play dominoes or quots or just warm their cockles by a blazing fire would have it no other way. But this isolated and ancient drovers' inn, situated on the A438 just above the Wye, with the Welsh border running clean through the garden, is also a very tasty place to eat.

Landlord David Wallington has spent many years in foreign parts working for American multinationals and has injected several international dishes among the traditional steak-and-kidney pies and spit-roasted sucking pigs with gooseberry sauce. He cooks, "blessed with a fertile imagination" while his wife Flo draws the beer. There are just three tipsy-floored bedrooms with windows on to the Wye valley, Black Mountains and distant Malverns.

The Rhydspence Inn, Whitney-on-Wye, Hereford HR3 8EU, tel 04973 262.

B & B: £16. Dinner: from £7.

Painswick

WHEN I asked an old Painswickian the way to the hotel she said "Oh, you'll like it there, it's very nice." Owner Michael Hill reckons that "the villagers are our best advertising agents," — and clients too, it seems, judging by the high proportion of local ladies and gentlemen who lend the oak panelled lounge and restaurant the airs of a private club.

As befitting one of the most beautiful, yet remarkably uncommercialised Cotswold villages, this namesake hotel is a fine Georgian house, a little snooty-looking from the outside but ever so welcoming within. Once the vicarage, the restaurant used to be the Sunday school cum Parish Room while the reception was a private chapel — hence the ornate ceiling. There are seven bedrooms in the main house, mostly with impressive valley views, and eight in a modern extension. All are attractively furnished and fully equipped with mod cons.

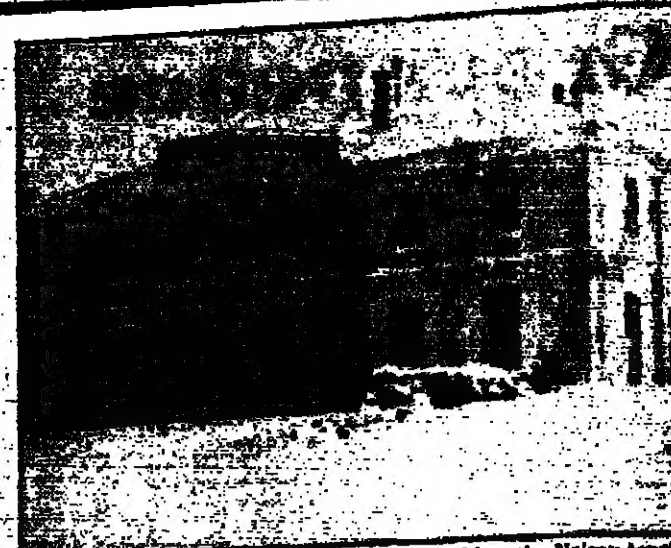
The Painswick Hotel and Restaurant, Canonbury Street, Painswick, Glouce, tel 0453 512160. B&B: from £20. Dinner: £13.

Old Schoolhouse

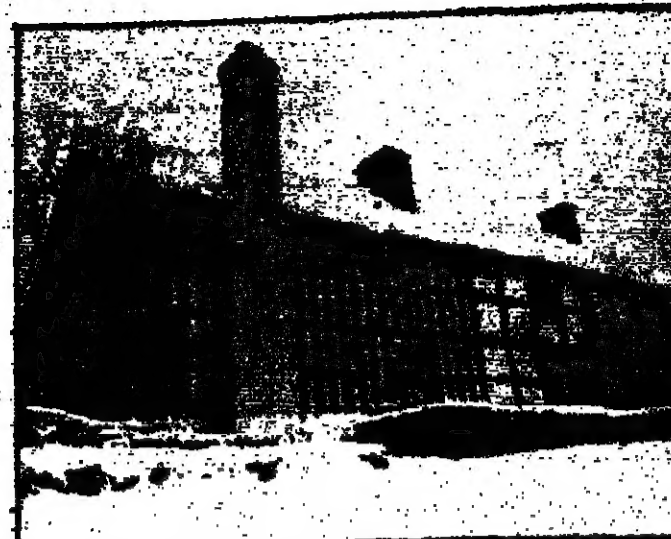
SITUATED right beside Berkeley Castle between the southern escarpment of the Cotswolds and the Severn Valley, the Old Schoolhouse is well placed for touring several regions in the one stay. The hotel, which only opened last May, is personally run by two youngsters, Simon and Jane Greenhalgh, who spent a full four years converting the building from its earlier scholastic calling, "doing everything except for the plastering and electro-osmotic damp coursing," both had previous track records working in other people's hotels and knew exactly what they eventually wanted to skipper. "We knew that it did not have to be either too upmarket or expensive to be good."

There are seven pretty, prim and airy bedrooms and a downstairs lounge and restaurant which have terracotta tiled floors, delicate friezes, and murals and an uncluttered Scandinavian feel, made all the more appealing by the deluge of light that pours in through the large multi-paned classroom windows.

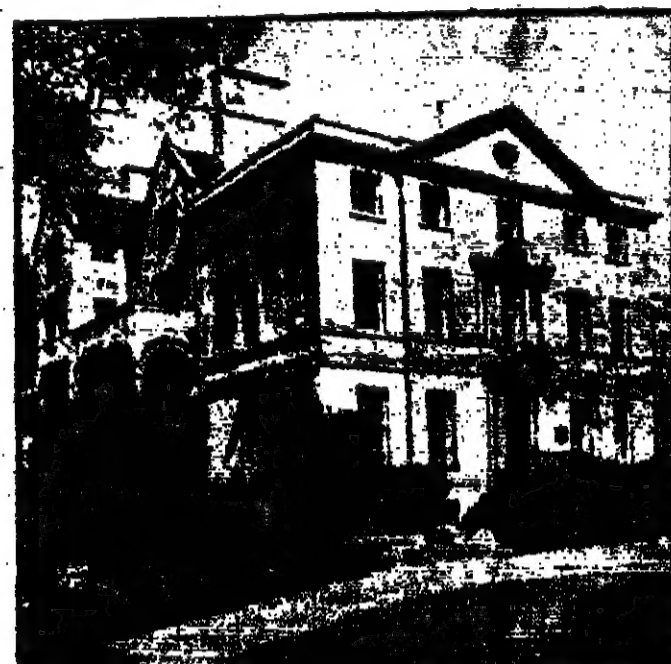
The Old Schoolhouse Hotel and Restaurant, Canonbury Street, Painswick, Gloucestershire, tel 0453 517111. B & B: £15.50. Dinner: £11.50.



Pengethley, the Nelson house

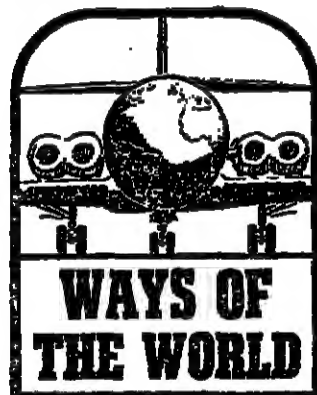


Rhydspence, quads and sucking



Painswick, former vicarage

Always make sure you are properly covered before you reach the beach



YOU'RE ON holiday and have decided, on the spur of the moment, to learn to skin dive. Not surprisingly, you give no

thought to insurance because you've got a holiday policy which covers you for everything — or does it? The chances are that it doesn't cover you for nearly as much as you think it does. And if you had injured yourself skin diving you would have received a nasty shock.

It's more than likely your insurance company would have refused to pay your medical expenses, and if you had ended up in hospital this could have amounted to a considerable amount of money.

In fact, if you hurt yourself doing anything hazardous, the chances of you getting any money back are pretty remote. And this doesn't only apply to medical expenses, it

can affect cancellation or curtailment claims as well.

All policies tell you what's excluded in the small print on the back, but they often lump several things together under the heading "hazardous activities." If you think there's a possibility that one of your activities might fall into this category then check the policy with the insurance company (it's a good idea to check it anyway, if only to be sure). Don't just ask the travel agent. They are often no better informed than you and could give you misleading information.

Some insurance companies consider riding motor scooters to be hazardous (if so, they usually mention it in the small print) and will not pay

for medical expenses if they are as a result of riding a motor scooter. This is bad news for those who rent them on holiday and, on the Greek islands in particular, many people do. If you are planning to hire one, make sure before you go on holiday that your policy covers you.

It's also important to make sure there are no activities which preclude you from claiming if you want to cancel or cut short your holiday. Anything hazardous is again excluded, as well as some things you might not otherwise think about. For example, if you hurt yourself playing some sport, and want to cancel your holiday as a result, you will find that some policies will not cover you.

Make sure you read the small print before you take out the policy.

Your valuables will nearly always be covered under your holiday policy but virtually all stipulate a maximum amount (it varies from policy to policy). What's important is to make sure that the total sum of what you take doesn't work out more than the amount covered by your policy. If you already have All Risks cover you may find that your valuables will be covered anyway.

If you have something which is worth more than the maximum amount allowable per item (cameras with additional lenses for instance) you will need to extend your existing All Risks cover so

that it's insured while you're on holiday.

Extra cover is a notable example of a policy which doesn't cover motor scooters or valuables, although they have now brought out supplementary insurance to cover both. You have to pay extra for this, so would be better off taking a policy which includes it in the basic cost.

There are many independent policies available through travel agents but if you are going on a package it's likely the tour operator will automatically include their own insurance unless you tell them otherwise (some actually insist on it). What is essential is that you have sufficient cover. If you feel the tour operator's policy

doesn't give you what you need then take an independent one. It's likely to cost a bit more, but it's not worth having an inadequate policy in order to save a few pounds.

If the tour operator insists you take their policy and it's not suitable, you can either take out an independent policy in addition to theirs or book your holiday with another operator. Operators often print little insurance information in their brochures but they should send you details of the cover on request.

If you are happy with your tour operator's policy then there are several advantages in taking it, not the least being the tour operator's rep who should be there to help out if you are having a problem and who can, where necessary, pay out money on your behalf.

Sarah Robinson

THE OLD BLACK LION

HAY ON WYE, HEREFORD, HR3 8AD. Enjoy a well deserved break at this charming old Welsh coaching inn offering superb comfortable accommodation in 10 rooms, 6 with bath or shower and WC. Dine on the best of Welsh and mid European food in our oak paneled dining room or treat yourselves to snacks with a difference in our bar. Hay is the second most beautiful town set in picturesque countryside Wye Valley. Visit the castle, the abbey and the famous fishing on the Wye and surrounding area. For details write or telephone (0487) 820641.

SMALL HOTEL

Charming and romantic hotel in the heart of the Cotswolds. The hotel is a beautiful old building with a large garden. There are 10 rooms, 6 with bath or shower and WC. Dine on the best of Welsh and mid European food in our oak paneled dining room or treat yourselves to snacks with a difference in our bar. Hay is the second most beautiful town set in picturesque countryside Wye Valley. Visit the castle, the abbey and the famous fishing on the Wye and surrounding area. For details write or telephone (0487) 820641.

Time	Destination	Time	Destination
06.00	Calais	12.30	Calais
06.30	Calais	13.10	Boulogne
07.00	Calais	13.40	Calais
07.30	Calais	14.20	Calais
08.00	Calais	14.40	Calais
08.30	Boulogne	15.10	Boulogne
09.00	Calais	15.40	Calais
09.40	Calais	16.30	Calais
10.00	Boulogne	17.30	Calais
10.30	Calais	18.10	Boulogne
11.00	Calais	18.30	Calais
11.40	Calais	19.30	Calais
12.10	Boulogne		

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■ VAT in Ireland on hotel accommodation, car and caravan rental has been reduced by almost half, from 18% to 10%.

■ The strong £ means you now get over £1.20 in Irish punts for every pound sterling. With the increased cost of holidays abroad it makes sense to visit Ireland in '85.

For example, a week's holiday in a traditional Irish cottage in Killarney can cost as little as £72 each.

(Based on four adults travelling together.)

For lots more ideas, contact the Irish Tourist Board: dial 100 and ask for Freefone Ireland.

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21 June	Tenerife	Palmaros Playa Apt	3	-	-	£250
28 June	Tenerife	Palmaros Playa Apt	3	-	-	£260
13 June	Lanzarote	Rocas Negras Apt	3	-	-	£240
20 June	Lanzarote	Rocas Negras Apt	3	-	-	£250
27 June	Lanzarote	Rocas Negras Apt	3	-	-	£260
17 June	Gran Canaria	Las Gaviotas Apt	3	-	-	£240
24 June	Gran Canaria	Las Gaviotas Apt	3	-	-	£250
1 July	Gran Canaria	Las Gaviotas Apt	3	-	-	£260

*Chosen of choice of dinner (but not breakfast) included. Prices are for 2 adults and include all taxes and charges. Manchester Departures and Right only also available. Open Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm Sat 9am-2pm. Half board service 01 673 2245. Sunday 10am-2pm.

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WEEK-END PEOPLE

Greenpeace at war with itself

GREENPEACE will drop its anti-fur campaign if it proves to be a threat to aboriginal societies, a senior member of the environmental group stated this week. He revealed there had been "very great dissent" by Canadian, Danish and other Greenpeace branches to the London body's original proposal, as a result of which the campaign became an exclusively British affair.

"There is a body of opinion in this organisation that would stop the campaign if we felt we were hurting these people," said Alan Pickaver, a member of Greenpeace's international headquarters at Lewes, Sussex. Next week he is travelling to Greenland to hear the grievances of aboriginal delegates from Canada, Alaska and Greenland, who fear that their traditional harvesting of fur and skins will suffer the same fate as the northern seal hunts.

"Given Greenpeace's origins we have to work with these people," Pickaver said. "I would hope Greenpeace can come out of the meeting with something positive."

This development may lead to a rift between Greenpeace International's ultimate authority and the London organisation which this week was still not acknowledging its potential threat to native trappers nor that its insensitivity to a comparatively small sector of the wild fur market may jeopardise the campaign's main thrust against the United States.

Last week the People page reported from northern Canada, where Indians of the predominant Dene Nation asserted the economic importance of fur trapping to the survival of their culture, and accused Greenpeace of cynically manipulating European sentimentality.

The article raised several questions about Greenpeace's actions. Above all, how could

an organisation that has embraced Amerindian thinking, that named its ship *Rainbow Warrior* after an Indian myth and supported the Sioux in their Black Hills campaign, be seen to undermine their existence?

This page helped to launch Greenpeace's anti-fur campaign. Last September Mark Glover, its anti-fur supremo, sat me down under David Bailey's poster of a bleeding fashion fur to explain the cruelties of the leg-hold trap which he demonstrated to dramatic effect. He said that in the previous year 18 million wild furs had been trapped in the United States and three million in Canada. It was the work of big commercial interests. "I think the British public will be horrified," he said.

To my query about native people, he had answered reassuringly that trapping was not their sole occupation. Before I left for Canada I asked him to comment on Indian claims of victimisation. It was "unfortunate," he said, that native people were caught in the middle, but it was the responsibility of the Canadian Government to provide alternative employment.

In Canada, a simple arithmetic showed that the Indians were not "in the middle" but the actual targets of Greenpeace's campaign. Eighty per cent of Canada's wild furs are caught by native people, according to their estimates. I found that the Dene Nation, recovering from a history of neglect and exploitation, are making an attempt to create employment and investment in the vast tracts of land to which they are claiming legal title.

Convinced that I had missed some vital point, I went back to Mark Glover this week for an explanation. Again he sat me down under the Bailey poster—now one of 60 boardings up and down the land.



GLOVER—trapping everybody in one policy. Picture by Graham Turner

"The campaign is primarily aimed at commercial interests in the fur business," he said. "We are attacking the Harrods and Selfridges of this world."

But hadn't his campaign been sold to the public on the cruelty of the leg-hold trap? Canada these are not set by commercial concerns but small bands of Indians who have used traps for some 30,000 years. Indians do not trap at Harrods.

"We are attempting to undermine the market in this country, irrespective of what's going on over there," he said.

Would the campaign's supporters have raised money for posters if they had been informed of the possible consequences for native people?

"If it was put to them in that manner, which is the minority of the fur business, they might have thought twice," he conceded.

Glover's sights are set on the much larger wild fur trapping fraternity in the United States, which he characterises as good ol' boys. But why should his blunderbuss threaten Canada's natives? He said that Greenpeace could exercise little influence over the campaign's consequences.

Glover and his two assistants then began to pose questions which revealed a surprising ignorance. If fur trading was not the mainstay of some Indians' income, what would it matter if it ceased? Surely their use of Ski-dos and even planes was

not truly aboriginal?

I asked what research they had done. None was familiar with the essential reading on the Canadian Indian hunting economy, Hugh Brody's *Maps and Dreams* (1981). Glover has not visited the area, and first encountered its aboriginal delegates in April while both sides read opposing evidence to the Royal Sealing Commission in London.

Had Greenpeace made any kind of impact assessment? Glover said that was impossible, partly because of a Canadian law which forbade the compilation of race statistics. What about the resources of their Canadian branch, now evidently opposed to their campaign? He said no significance should be read into that: every

branch had the right to run its own national campaign.

So why are the Canadian, Danish and Greenland branches not participating? "They have other things on their plate," he said. "We perceived a need in this country."

He insisted that Greenpeace was "not in the business of destroying aboriginal cultures," although native people claim it has done precisely that in Newfoundland. He had no objection to subsistence hunting, he said. Was he opposed to native people selling furs? "If you are suggesting that the future of these people depends on furs, that is not the basis of a culture. A culture is more than that."

I repeated the complaint of Indian leaders that ignorance among well-meaning Europeans had fostered intellectual myths and Walt Disney stereotypes of what Indians should be. The net effect was that Greenpeace, in redefining man's economic relationship with nature, was more concerned about animals than its former allies.

He considered that to be a false premise. "We are not an organisation that defends native people. We defend the environment."

It seemed ludicrous to point out that the native people of Canada have been in the environment business a little longer than Greenpeace.

Stuart Wavell

Jude the secure



ALDERSON—fascinated by women's physical courage

WHEN Jude Alderson went on stage in Glasgow, seven months pregnant, the audience called her a menace to society. Some of her stage photographs—leopard-skin and lurid lighting—give just a hint of what they may have been talking about. But in the flesh, caught wearing her writer's hat rather than her performer's, Jude, writer of Thursday's BBC TV Play *Rachel and the Roarettes*, comes over very differently. A baggy pink jump-suit, a diffident air, and a garden full of kittens and kids—one of each are hers.

The leopard-skin costumes and the nightclubs are part of her 10-year history with the Sadista Sisters, the feminist cabaret group she co-founded and which trod, as she puts it, the tightrope between feminism and pornography. Pornography, she amends, is not quite right. Eroticism is more like it. But certainly the Sadista Sisters took their act into the strip clubs and porno joints of Soho.

Their split image led to some confusion. Like when they were billed in Europe "the sexiest show in town" and the audience, naturally, didn't expect quite what they got. But "we made a point of playing in venues other than theatres," says Jude. "We were interested in reaching a popular audience. Infiltrating the raincoat brigade."

The Sadista Sisters are alive and well and planning to tour in the autumn with a musical version of *The Virgins' Revenge*, a play by Jude which recently packed the Soho Poly Theatre. For the last year, however, their activities have been in abeyance while Jude focused her energies on writing.

Rachel and the Roarettes is described by the BBC as a rollicking fantasy. It is described by Jude as a lesbian musical. "It celebrates women's intense love without men. Whether they are in the sack or not is irrelevant."

The play is lived out simultaneously in the twentieth and the nineteenth centuries, among a range of female bikers cum highway-women. "Independent women who weren't goody-goodies. I wouldn't want Rachel to be a girl guide," Brechtian is a description that tends to crop up to describe Jude's style—and "if I have literary heroes they are Brecht and Weill."

In terms of feminist theatre the important thing about Rachel is that, like *The Virgins' Revenge* and the Sadista Sisters, it tries to deal humorously, unpompously with heavy subjects. What is also important to Jude is that the play shows women possessed of physical strength, and of power. "I am really fascinated by physical courage in women."

"If you can ride a trapeze, if you can ride a motorbike at 100mph you have power," Rachel rides the motorbike, Jude has in the past flown the trapeze.

She left school at 16 to work in Wallis Meat Pie Factory like waitress and nanny alternated with acrobat, street musician, trapeze artist, and stripper.

Working as a stripper, by her account, is not such a big deal. "The dividing line between exploitation in the sex industry and the theatre is not so great. As well as being a stripper I have worked as a bit part actress in films and the hierarchy on set is as humiliating." Which brings us back to Rachel and the Roarettes where the atmosphere on set, by all accounts, was very different. "All these fantastic women stomping around," says Jude. "The men were really intimidated."

Tort and tense

TEN years ago this month, the Portuguese colonialists left Mozambique. Gita Mowana then in her early twenties, was training as a lawyer in Portugal. She returned to her country, and today remains at the pointed end of the revolutionary transformation of Mozambique society.

She is tough, probably very tough, and articulate about her country's needs. One that is paramount is the need to be left in peace, to get on with the job, but it is a difficult one to meet. South Africa offered the *Nkomati Accord*, and then broke it. South Africa sends in engineers to restore Mozambique's power supply, but only after sabotaging it first.

"You cannot choose your neighbours," says Gita. A few more people in Maputo with her energy and know-how would surely be enough to achieve the wished-for transformation. Perhaps, but the Portuguese colonial legacy means four out of five Mozambicans cannot read or write, half of them are under 15 years old, infant mortality is one of the highest in the world, there is drought and famine, and shortages of basic essentials. There are what the UN nicely calls "security problems"—as Gita puts it, "the climate of war and the tension are there. It's a question of survival."

Her legal training meant that after a more or less mandatory period as a teacher, she did five years as a judge. She didn't particularly enjoy that—to choose between sending a man down for 24 years and sending him home was not to her liking. She is still a High Court judge, but isn't sitting just now, because she is engaged in researching and documenting findings suitable candidates to serve on grassroots tribunals.

In country areas, the elected (lay) judge at these tribunals may well be illiterate, but he or she will have the respect of the community. Their job is to adjust and apply, with appropriate wisdom rather than legal knowledge, traditional ways of solving problems. The problems are routine: divorce and matrimonial problems, anti-black-battering, theft, anti-social behaviour, theft.

They are, as it were, popular "crimes" dealt with in a popular way. A BBC television film, *The Sunday Judge*, written by David Lan and made by Adam Low just outside Maputo last year, will be shown next Thursday.

The central character of the film, a husband-beaten judge, is someone whom Gita has championed while working for the women's case in Mozambique.

Women in our country now have a role, and they have confidence, and they have been through hell. You can say we have achieved independence, but the war goes on.

Defending the tooth, the whole tooth...

TEETH playing up again. Ones on top OK. Those on bottom? Not so much. Sticky buns, of course. Went to see David Watson James, Cardiff dentist and chairman of British Dental Association. He wants a tax on sugar.

"I have put it forward to every member of the House of Commons," he said. "I have had contact with it. I'm convinced it's the sensible thing to do. My prime objective is to use the revenue from tax to offset dental and prescription charges."

He would start by taxing luxury items like confectionery. "If people can't afford them, they can't afford malt whisky or Havana cigars either. I see no difference."

His probe encounter an obstruction. This is the sugar lobby in Parliament, which is to do with 'body language'. We may be emitting subtle chemicals that communicate to a third party very rapidly, indeed.

How does he cope? "There's no single answer. One patient may like a

hearty, bluff manner and another will prefer a quiet sympathetic attitude. It calls for empathy skills of which he confesses he was unaware when he entered general practice 25 years ago. However, dentists are now aware of a creeping decay in the profession. Fluoride toothpaste, declining dental disease and painless childhood introductions have all contributed to a nation of healthier choppers.

"We are likely to become victims of our own success."

This may mean radical measures to cope with the under-employment and unemployment of dentists. We may have to accept that we will have to join fewer dentists and that the requirements of universities will have to be even stiffer than they are now. In Scandinavia there is substantial unemployment among dentists. "The trend is visible all over Europe."

WATSON JAMES—giving sugar its lumps

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Colin Baker, actor, 42; Michael Codron, theatrical producer, 55; Professor Francis Crick, joint discoverer of DNA, 69; Julie (Joole) Driscoll, singer, 38; Ray Illingworth, former England cricket captain, 52; Sir Michael Levey, director, National Gallery, 58; Muriel Martin, actress, singer, 51.

TOMORROW: Tony Britton, actor, 61; Ousie Clark, dress designer, 43; Alice Pollock, dress designer, 43; Charles Saatchi, of Saatchi and Saatchi, 38; Dr Patrick Sefton, gynaecologist, 72.

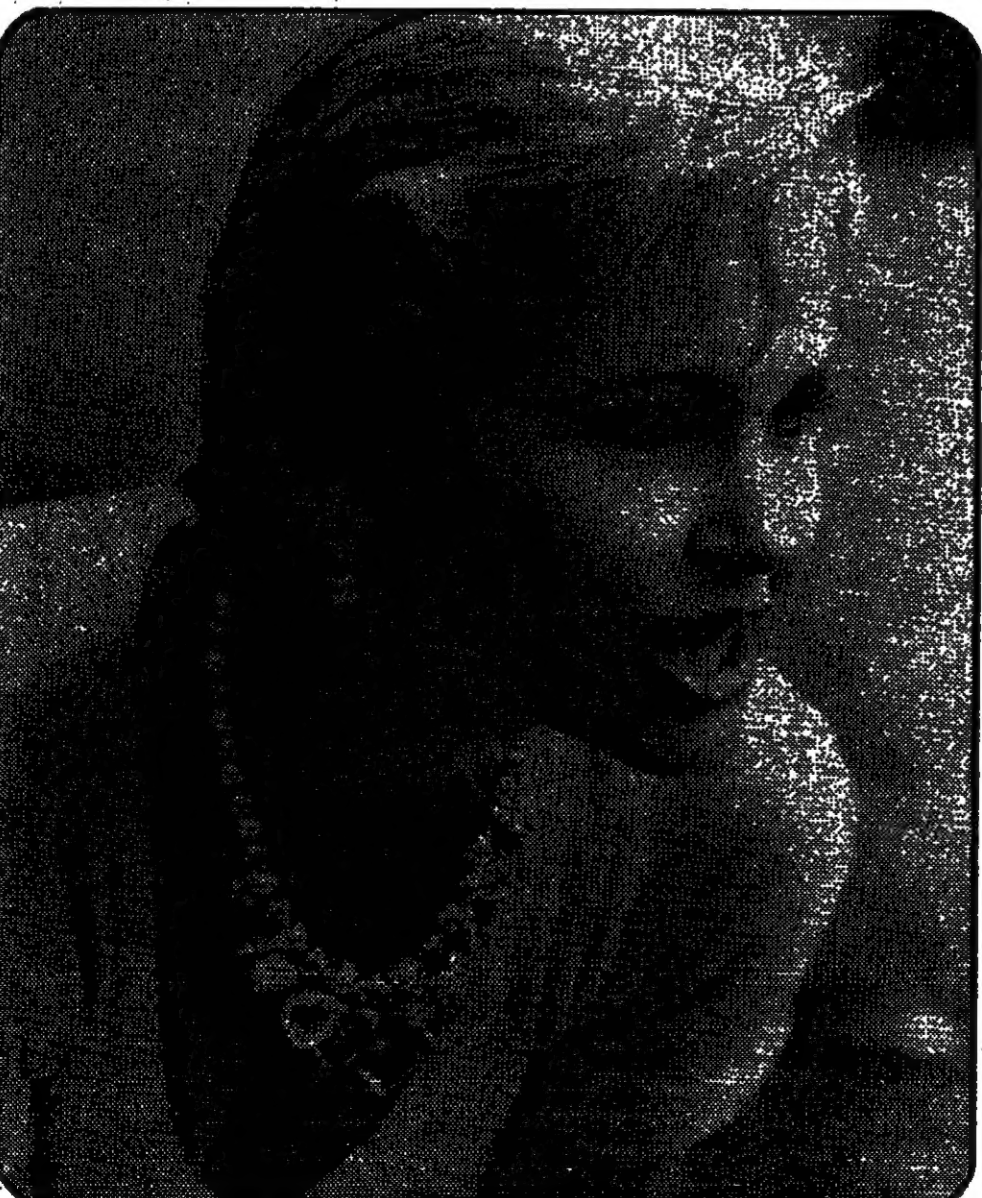
MONDAY: Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, 84; Sam Bellows, novelist, 70; Graham C. Greene, managing director, Jonathan Cape, 49; Lionel Jeffries, actor, screenwriter, film director, 59; Simon Jenkins, political editor, *The Economist*, 42; Frederick Lowe, composer, 84; Robert Maxwell, proprietor, the *Daily Mirror*, 62; Maurice Sendak, author, illustrator, 57.

TUESDAY: Michael Cacoyannis, theatre and cinema director, 62; Jacques Cousteau, underwater explorer, 75; Lynsey de Paul, composer, singer, 35; Athol Fugard, playwright, 53; Beryl Grey, ballet dancer, 58.

WEDNESDAY: Brigid Brophy, novelist, playwright, 56; George Bush, Vice-President, United States, 61; Charles Clark, chief executive, Hutchinson's, 52; John Coppley, principal resident producer, Covent Garden, 52; Vic Damone, singer, 57; Leon Goossens, oboist, 88; Pat Jennings, goalkeeper, 40; Peter Jones, actor, 55; Jackie Polo, wrestler, 59; Robert Smith, show jumper son of Harvey, 24; J. W. M. Thompson, editor, the *Sunday Telegraph*, 65.

THURSDAY: Alan Civil, horn player, 57; Gwynne Howell, operatic bass, 47; Tom King, secretary of state for employment, 52; Malcolm McDowell, actor, 42; Peter Scandamaro, jump jockey, 27; president, National Viewers and Listeners' Association, 75.

FRIDAY: Julie Felix, folk singer, 47; Edna Mayley, organist, 67; Earl Inge, folk singer, actor, 76; Pierre Salinger, former White House press secretary, biographer of the Kennedys, 60; Nigel Short, chess player, 20; Sam Wanamaker, actor, director, producer, 68.



Manchester Guardian 1935

JUNE 8: Mr Ramsay MacDonald issued the following message from No. 10, Downing Street, after he had resigned the Premiership:

"For some time I have been facing the fact that I should have to seek a respite from the heavy and continuous strain which the critical conditions of the last six years both at home and abroad have imposed upon me as Prime Minister."

the personnel of the Government should weaken its national character and throw our politics back upon partisan lines—whether Conservative, Liberal, or Labour.

"I am convinced that such a step would speedily undo the policy which has led the country thus far through its difficulties and given it the confidence and the prospects which it now enjoys."

"I have presided over a Cabinet diverse in general political principles as few Cabinets have been, and put united in the practical work of fulfilling our common national task as few Cabinets, even those drawn from a single party, have been. Such a Cabinet is still required if national progress is to be maintained."

WE ARE informed that the circulation of the Manchester Guardian and the London "Evening Standard" has been prohibited in Italy.

The reason for the prohibition, it is understood, is Low's cartoon which appeared in the Manchester Guardian of May 11. This cartoon showed Mussolini marching "To the Abyssinian Gamble—via Adowa?" while Hitler, Goering, and Goebbels ("The Girls He Left Behind Him") waved a joyful farewell at seeing him thus distracted from the scene of European politics.

paid a warm tribute to the ex-Premier, Mr Ramsay MacDonald, and appealed for continued confidence in the National Government and for its return to power again at the coming general election.

Mr Baldwin gave the usual catalogue of the National Government's achievements. He admitted one failure—the problem of the distressed areas—and promised a new effort to solve it. He said:

Those of us who are fortunate enough to be secure from the perils of unemployment and extreme poverty can never rest until we have succeeded in moulding this country so that there will be none who suffer great unemployment or poverty.

I feel it is up to us in the

Government, it is up to all of us, to start with renewed efforts and renewed intention to tackle this problem which, so far, has defeated us, so that perhaps by the time the term of this Government is over we may be able to say that at least we have made a start on this baffling and crippling problem.

released three weeks ago. The Bulgarians were sent to Moscow.

Torgler is now stated to be living a free man in the neighbourhood of Berlin.

TOSCANINI will conduct the final concert of the BBC's London Musical Festival tomorrow night (June 14). This will be his fourth concert in the Queen's Hall series. His first appearance in England with an English orchestra has been a curious experience for everybody. It takes a great deal to disturb the equanimity of the BBC, but Dr Adrian Boult, the corporation's musical director, confessed that they were all "terrified" in anticipation of the coming of the arch-tyrant of conductors.

WEEK-END ARTS

Michael Billington reviews The London Cuckolds at the Lyric, Hammersmith

Farce movers

ALTHOUGH written in 1881, Edward Ravenscroft's *The London Cuckolds* is closer to the world of Ray Cooney than that of Congreve. This is pure, unadulterated Restoration farce. Its verbal grace is minimal. Its preoccupations are strictly below the belt. And its hero, avid for coupling, "can never bring it to a home push." This is the *Two Into One* of its day; and as such, though it doesn't know when to stop, much funnier than *The Way of the World*.

This development of farce, says Allardyce Nicoll of Ravenscroft, "shows the weakening taste of the age." What it shows to me is Ravenscroft's grasp of an essential comic truth: that the wages of lust is frustration. Rumble, an unstrung bean, doggedly sets out to seduce the wives of two smug burglers; the godly Eugenia, the witty Arabella.

In the process he gets bundled into closets, cast out as a familiar, stuck in cellars, drenched in the contents of piss-pots, blackened like a chimney-sweep. He is the ancestor of all those Feydeauesque losers betrayed by the fitch. Meanwhile his friend Townly, who puts wine before women, effluently cuckolds the cocksure husbands.

It is not, by any means, a subtle play. And long before its three hours are up one feels, like Mr Bennett of his daughter's piano-playing, that it has delighted us sufficiently. But it has a rude energy. And Stuart Burge's production, which the Leicester Haymarket have brought to the Lyric Hammersmith, yields a very funny performance by Michael Maloney as the unsatisfied Rumble.

Like all good farce actors he has a countenance of total sobriety. He sets about seduction with the seriousness of a sleuth looking for clues. And he is constantly unable to live up to his own image of himself: watching his friend aim his sword at the ground and catch it on the rebound he tries the same trick only to see it sail humiliatingly over his shoulder. Mr Maloney is, in short, a Restoration Clouseau.

Sylvester Le Touzel as the witty Arabella wrings multiple meanings out of the word "No." And Barry Stanton and Donald Gee as the tromped husbands exude foolish security. John Byrne, who has adapted the text, could profitably have cut 20 minutes from it. But I found the evening filthy funny; and it is salutary to be reminded that basic British farce was being invented at Dorset Gardens over 300 years ago.

Hugh Hebert visits Studs Terkel's Chicago

Collaring Studs

HIS office looks out high over Lake Michigan and is lined with the boxed voices of the good and the great and the inconsiderable who nevertheless have something to say that we ought to hear. Though what we mostly wanted to hear in Studs Terkel's Chicago (Omnibus, BBC-1) was that wonderful Donald Duck voice escaping round a fat cigar and telling us about his world of America.

I'm a tape, therefore I am. I'm a neo-Cartesian me and Richard Nixon. He might say 'I taped, therefore I am not.' Most full stops and some of the commas in the Terkel's flow are cackles or chuckles. For 33 years he has done a daily radio programme in Chicago, and before that there was Studs Place on television, and trouble with McCarthy.

When he finished law school he auditioned for a gangster on a radio soap opera whose most memorable role was threatening the woman who is now Reagan's mother in law. Discovering that, he says, "Was my epileptic experience, the light on the road to Damascus that showed me you can no longer tell where soap opera

leaves off and reality begins." The stories reel off his tongue as surely as the voices of his faithful Uher tape recorder.

His wider fame rests on his books, oral histories of large chunks of 20th century American experience: the Depression, the Dream, Chicago's ethnic mix, and most recently *The Good War*. But in Michael Dibb's film, we see Terkel gathering his raw material, a small, portly, gabby man bustling from source to source in the windy city, or talking to some of his old buddies.

It was a wholly affectionate film, but then you probably have to go a long way to find someone who hates Terkel, or how else would he gather all those millions of words of open hearted confession out of which he makes his books? Reviewing *The Good War* in the Guardian, Clancy Sigal said Studs had the eye of a police reporter and the heart of a poet, and you can't say fairer than that.

Terkel could with some truth call what he writes *The World About Us*, whereas you do sometimes wonder about the relevance of the title when it's applied to the BBC-2 series. Last night's was an animated scrolling poster for the Gurkha regiments, or else a justification for them. Either way, the only serious issue it raised was what happens when we give up Hong Kong in 1997, and so have to train and station these Nepalese shepherds turned soldiers of the Queen somewhere else. And there it not only fudged the answer, but the question too.

When the villains say Grace



GRACE JONES: May Day for James Bond

A ROCK star's second job is to create music. Her first job is to create herself, and that's what Grace Jones did. She took the raw material—a stern Jamaican upbringing, scars from the New York model wars, a strong sense of Parisian fashion—and created a persona which became first a disco queen and now a movie star.

The "Grace Jones" that Grace Jones devised was square-shouldered, fat-topped and androgynous, an unsettling and challenging figure whose "I Want A Man" signature tune seemed like Salome demanding the head of John the Baptist.

In *A View To A Kill*, Jones plays a hard case named May Day, whom Jones describes as "not Grace Jones. Grace Jones never wore leather softened by hoods and falling silk. May Day is sexy, feminine and lethal."

Out of costume, during shooting of the film, Jones would put no one in mind of "Grace Jones." Reclining on a couch in a blue leotard and black tights, picking at a leftover lobster and sipping mango smoothie, Jones conveyed none of the threatening ambiguity of her stage creation.

She and her son and her mother and her manager and her 6 foot 7 inch Swedish companion named Hans and about 30 unopened suitcases were billeted in a house in Baywater for the duration of *A View To A Kill* filming. It was the day after she'd shot the kick-boxing scene with her co-villain, Christopher Walken.

Christopher plays that sort of thing for real. Jones made me feel guilty for not being a superwoman. The whole thing will be on screen for about a minute—me teaching him to kick-box and us ending up embracing. It seems he and May Day do this every day—we work out and then we make love. Bond reminds me in the end, of course.

Jones appears to have come to acting by a roundabout route, yet she says: "Acting is what I set out to do in the first place, before modelling, before singing." She actually did appear in three films in the early 1970s, two in Europe and one American blaxploitation item entitled *Gordon's War*. "I played a drug courier

Grace Jones, disco queen and star of the new Bond movie, talks to Bart Mills about the woman behind the licence to thrill

who had a gun concealed in this enormous Afro. I got attacked under a stairwell. I pulled the gun and said: 'My only line in the picture, 'You bastards are dead.'"

At the time Jones uttered these immortal words, she was a somewhat under-employed model in New York. "I was with the Wilhelm Agency. They suggested I go to Paris. They said I was so strong that I wasn't going to get top work in America, where they wanted the all-American girl look."

"In Europe, they like models to have a strong personality. In America, if you have too much personality, they're afraid you'll overpower the clothes or whatever you're selling."

Jones never became a top model in Europe either, for she got deflected into music. "My girlfriend's boyfriend worked for a record company scout, and he suggested I make a demo. I said 'Why not?' and I got a contract right away. I took voice lessons for a year and set about creating a show."

Jones's performance was partly a fashion-show, partly a command to dance. "I realised that I'm more dynamic freestyle than moving. When you pose, you stay in one place, you work your eyes and you strike different attitudes. My show was like bringing fashion photography to life. Plus I really blasted the sound out."

"A lot of people thought Grace Jones was just a big gimmick. Me being carried off on stage like Cleopatra. Me singing in a wedding dress with a garter belt and all underneath. But I knew what I was doing. I knew how to use a room. I knew about

clothes. I knew about lighting. I came on raw and crude, and people were hungry for it."

Jones's performance in disco and concert halls were models of precision and discipline. But the lesson of control was a hard one for her to learn. "I grew up being disciplined constantly, and I hated it. For a long time I rebelled—I'd be expected in class and instead I'd be in Spain or somewhere. Then I grew up. I realised that if you want something, you have to pay your dues."

Jones, who is in her mid-thirties now, passed her first 12 years in the oppressive atmosphere of colonial Jamaica. She was the third of seven children and was raised by her grandparents until she joined her parents in Syracuse, N.Y.

"In Jamaica at that time, they believed that if you spared the rod you'd spoil the child. They certainly didn't spoil me. My piano teacher would chop my fingers if I played a wrong note. Someone told me recently that I do a lot of hitting and I said, 'Sure I do. I got hit a lot as a child.' And the mental abuse was as bad as the physical abuse."

"When I finally escaped to America, my personality was already formed, unfortunately. Jones is a very strong person. I found out about the black-white thing that America has. Oddly enough, all of my friends were white. The black kids used to mimic my accent."

"I never had any boyfriends because my Jamaican schooling had put me about four years ahead. Everybody in my class was so much older than me that I used to cover myself with heavy make-up so I'd look old too."

"My father was a preacher, and he didn't like that at all. Jones won a place at Syracuse University but after two years found an outlet in the theatre. Her drama professor found her a job in a play in Philadelphia, and she never went home. Even today, she doesn't have a real home."

"I have a place in New York where I spend most of my time. When I'm there, people say: 'Oh, but you live in London.' Or 'Don't you live in Paris?' People push Grace Jones to be foreign, so they can enjoy her more."

Pick of TV and radio

Monday

The Art Of Persuasion: A Very Difficult Client (C4, 6.30pm). A promising start to a new series on advertising which breaks away from the usual whinges about the morality and sexism to concentrate on the business and creative side. Presenter Christopher Pennings goes to sunny Italy where a production company spent six months to make a 60 second commercial for Cinzano. Their brief was to improve on the famous Collins/Rosenthal sketch as it promoted the actors rather than the product.

In My Experience (C4, 3.45pm). A lively portrait in which Mrs Castle talks to Mavis Nicholson about her father's socialist influence, her political friends and adversaries and her love of dancing.

Tuesday

Long Term Memory (BBC-2, 9.35pm). Patrick Proughton lifts the unspectacular play, with his marvellous performance as Gerald, the amnesiac saxophonist who is re-united (well, not quite) with his wife after 21 years. **Survivors** (ITV, 10.30pm). Survivors of one of the bloodiest battles of the second world war go back to the scene of their killing on the slopes of Monte Cassino and their memories of the horror.

Wednesday

QED Simon's Peace (BBC-1, 9.25pm). After last week's harrowing repeat, this is a gruelling update on Simon Weston's progress following several major surgeries. He now faces his toughest battle — to fight against severe depression which drives his mind to despair and a fight to cope with ordinary life. This is not easy since he's badly scarred with limited use of his hands and is no longer considered fit for the army. **Female Focus: Legal Limbo** (C4, 4.00pm). Female Focus is a series of eight half-hour documentaries presented by ITN's Pamela Armstrong on today's women. The opening programme, *Go to Trial*, shows there is a constitutional ban on divorce.

Thursday **Global Report: The Sunday Job** (BBC-2, 8.10pm). An entertaining drama-doc based on real cases heard by one of the People's Tribunals in Mozambique. Teresa Cailliau, one of the judges in an old (ish) stage ruminating on life.

For a singer Grimes is a surprisingly engaging writer. Her poems and prose are plain-spoken and unpretentious, offered nervously from scraps of paper while she sips honey and lemon from a thermos for the throat. And while none offers any particularly original observations they dignify the commonplace subject matter — childhood dislocation from Lewisham to Lowestoft, awkward adolescence hangers-on — with a charm and blunt humour.

As a singer Grimes works in a surprising diversity of styles. Her unaccompanied tribute to her musical idols — Miles Davis, Bobby Bland, Billie Holiday — was ingenious and technically powerful and the prolonged section with her new band, *Eyes Wide Open*, approached jazz and soul idioms with a freshness and sophistication.

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Val Arnold-Forster

KING'S HEAD

John Vidal

Mr Joyce

AFTER Tom and Viv—or rather before—it's Jim and Stan, another everyday story of literary folk. This is the season of post-mortems when the genius is let out of the bottle and the awful balance sheet of creativity is prepared.

In the one column Stanislaw Joyce, the adoring, trampled-on younger brother, James's doorman, bottlewasher, amanuensis, provider and nanny; a Dr Johnson figure to be abused, pilloried and ridiculed. And in the other, James, the romantic, the alcoholic, burning for his art, forging the conscience of his race, changing the course of literature, cruel, egotistical and ruthless.

Tom Gallacher's *Mr Joyce* is Leaving Paris (first played in Dublin in 1972 and now transferred from Notting Hill, adds up to a magnificent illustration of the old cliché that great art involves great pain and that to break new ground you must break a few hearts. In this play is monochrome, even repetitive. But where it undoubtedly scores is in fleshing out its characters with an endless stream of sparkling exchanges.

The play divides between the young Joyce and family in 1908 Trieste, struggling with Dubliners and falling sight, and 30 years later in Paris, old, half-blind, dying, courageous and totally unrepentant after completing *Finnegans Wake*. Here he is visited by four "Voices" who speak accusingly from his past.

As the only Englishman in an otherwise all-Irish produc-

tion, Simon Roberts's highly charged performance as James and Sean Lawlor's inspired Stanislaw work well together at a difficult relationship. They are well supported by the Voices, Ronan Wilton (also the director), David Duffy and Nora Connolly, whose arguments may have been proved short-sighted by history but who are no less sympathetic in their utter exasperation.

BATH FESTIVAL

Meirion Bowen

Northern

Music Theatre

WORKING from the clear story lines of Stravinsky's *Rene*, the Northern Music Theatre were able to live up

to their name and reputation. Here, in a presentation devised for the Bath Festival by David Saver, the burlesque element was secondarily to a lucid retelling of the fable of the ox and the cock, with aptly costumed clowns synchronised perfectly with the narrative and commentary provided by four male singers.

Stravinsky's highly economic score, bubbling over with folk tunes and jaunty rhythms, and spiced with cadenzas and collages for the cimbalom (played by Gregory Knowles), was realised with rare precision and finesse under the direction of Graham Treacher.

Stravinsky's little set of Russian jingles, entitled *Priznaki*, set in a popular idiom like *Rene* but using a narrower range in its vocal writing, was also effectively staged. The singer, Linda Hirst, appeared here as a mountainous, pantomime dame, delivering her verbal

limericks with delicious exactness.

In Stravinsky's ragtime for 11 instruments, the Northern Music Theatre, lacking a definite extra-musical subject matter, added some gratuitous and unnecessary story lines undertaken by a couple of effete men behind the gauze.

DRILL HALL

Mick Brown

Lipstick

and Lights

CAROL GRIMES's reputation as a reconstructed blues soul and torch singer on the club and college circuit — redoubtable if unimpeachable leaves one unprepared for what she has to offer in *Lipstick and Lights*: a cabaret star review consisting of song, poetry and prose offered in something of the manner of an old (ish) stage ruminating on life.

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Val Arnold-Forster

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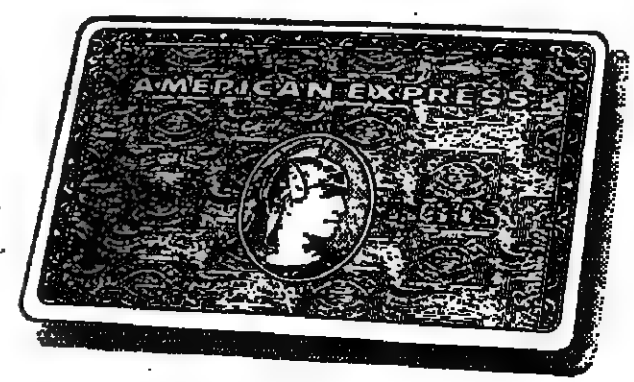
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The nails keep popping out of the plank

Incomes policy remains a dirty and divisive phrase in Labour Party circles. So, too, is any talk of a social contract. Above all, a pay norm is the great unmentionable. And yet a Labour movement serious about seeking power must have some convincing substitute for Mrs Thatcher's rag-bag version of wage planning — monetarism, control of the public sector borrowing requirement, an informal public sector norm, a deal of exhortation and unemployment running at above 13 per cent. Yesterday the Labour Party and the TUC took a first faltering step towards defining a better way. It would, according to a statement to go to both conferences this autumn, involve active union participation in an annual economic assessment. Such an exercise would embrace interest and exchange rate policies, investment planning and, above all, target levels for employment. And that, as night follows day, must involve a national view about the overall level of wage increases.

Not to put too fine a point on it — a pay norm. Yet the comfortable emphasis of the document is upon free collective bargaining and greater union say in company level investment plans.

Shadow Chancellor, Roy Hattersley takes a more robustly realistic view of these things. (See his Guardian interview of June 18.) Of course he is not talking about an incomes policy. Rather a "rewards policy" — to adopt the euphemistic phrase employed by Mr Neil Kinnock. Of course Mr Hattersley professes seductive new powers and responsibilities for the unions. In addition, he offers a statutory minimum wage and he pledges a substantial reduction in unemployment. Diplomatically he rules out a legally enforced incomes policy. There will be no sanctions against companies or unions who ignore Labour guidelines. Neither will the TUC be levered back into the business of wage setting. Yet Labour's deputy leader insists in terms that there has to be a national wage norm and that the extent that it is breached will be the extent

to which Chancellor Hattersley's expansionist and job creating policies fall short.

Mr Hattersley is right to lay things on the line as he has done — although, with hindsight, he could prudently have held peace until the rhetoric of the union conference season was safely out of the way. He is right for two reasons. The more fundamental is that a Labour government, dedicated to economic expansion and to using the laws of logic rather than the laws of Parliament to win support for its economic policies, will have one heck of a job of persuasion on its hands. Better to start now rather than after the election. More cynically, Labour's first task is to win that election. Trade union power is not what it was and neither is public perception of that power. Even so, a Labour leadership offering the electorate the ambiguous prospect of unprecedented union involvement in the economic affairs of state should surely be able to tell the punters that, in return, the barons of Congress House will be prepared to rein themselves in a little.

In context therefore the uncompromising remarks of Mr Ron Todd, general secretary elect of the Transport and General Workers Union, make depressing reading. Mr Todd told his biennial conference that his union "might" just accept that socialism is rooted in a planned economy and that plans might need to embrace all types of incomes. Yet, he continued, "we stand firmly by the view that planning of working people's incomes can only be by the active consent of the people involved. That is what free collective bargaining means." With which Britain's largest union registered its opposition to Hattersley's norms, guidelines and cash limits. Delegates went on to brush aside the idea of a statutory minimum wage to protect the lowest paid. Yet Mr Hattersley's conversion to a legal floor on earnings was intended as a wage norm *quid pro quo* for unions like NUPE who have long been seeking state support for the weakest and the most vulnerable of their members. The joint economic statement remains on the table and yesterday the TGWU specifically endorsed Labour's alternative strategy which must involve detailed bargaining with Mr Hattersley. With the election two years away, Labour still has the time to evolve a common position on wages. But has Mr Todd — or his many friends — the inclination? On current form it seems somewhat sadly unlikely.

Should he get his job back?

To his opponents, the suspended Bradford head teacher, Mr Ray Honeyford, is a racist provocateur who should be sacked. To his supporters he is a man who tells the truth and who faces martyrdom for his defence of free speech. In a situation such as this, where so much hinges on the character of an individual, polarisation is unavoidable and issues get personalised and simplified. Such problems have bedevilled the Honeyford affair for months. Nor has the air been cleared by this week's decisions by the Drummond Middle School governors that Mr Honeyford was not guilty of the accusations of racism made against him and that he should now be reinstated. That governors' meeting was only attended by 11 of the 18 people eligible to be there, and those who did attend were, by all accounts, narrowly split. A final decision now rests with Bradford's assistant director of education, who must weigh the governors' verdict along with the earlier no-confidence decision in the local council's schools sub-committee. He must also take into account the strong local political opposition to Mr Honeyford from Labour and the Alliance and the hostility of representatives of Bradford's Asian community. Even if the assistant director decides not to reinstate Mr Honeyford, there will then be the question of an appeal. So the Honeyford affair still has plenty of mileage in it.

This calls for cool heads on all sides. It also means that basic principles must be reiterated. The first of these is that Bradford is fully within its rights, both as a matter of law and also as a matter of principle, to pursue multi-racial education policies which have been worked out in detail over a long period of time. It is also entitled to expect that the head teachers whom it employs will implement these policies. If head teachers (or anyone else, come to that) fail in that task, then it is perfectly proper for the local authority to take action against them, and ultimately to give them their cards. Not only that. A city with a large ethnic minority population, such as Bradford, must also have a duty to ensure that parents and local communities have confidence in the head teachers as well. This must never mean that absolutely any-

one who is accused of racism is not automatically to be deemed guilty, whatever the hue and cry. That would allow a prejudiced or sectarian community to use quite improper means to get rid of people who are personally and professionally qualified for their jobs.

Where, then, does Mr Honeyford stand? To judge by some of the wilder defences of his conduct, he is a heretic, a good man, a decent chap. These are some of the garlands that Fleet Street has decked around his neck. Let such grumpies then read Mr Honeyford's writings, notably the articles which he has written for the *Salisbury Review*. These articles discuss some important issues about education in a multi-racial society, issues which ought to be properly debated (as they are in the recent *Swann Report*, for example). But Mr Honeyford's writing is crude and (has become increasingly so) it is racially insensitive (to put it mildly), with its references to "the hysterical political temperament of the Indian sub-continent". It is full of illogical leaps and intellectually dubious side swipes and analogies. Above all, it is riddled with stereotypes which are at least as misleading as any which have been pinned on Mr Honeyford by his cruder critics. In the piece which we reprinted on our Agenda page last Friday, for instance, Mr Honeyford produced a grotesque parody of multi-cultural education and its supporters which he then elided into the ridiculous charge that these were the same people who "often welcome race riots as signs of healthy revolt". Shoddy stuff. And odd stuff to be taken up by Mr Roger Scruton, a man who preens himself for his intellectual rigour. In truth, too, not the kind of stuff that should be coming from a man with his responsibilities. Mr Honeyford may, in the end, keep a job. But whether it should be his present job is far more questionable.

The job that makes waves

The appointment of Mr Peter Levene as £95,000 a year head of the Government's defence procurement is looking, at the very least, accident prone. When the announcement was first promulgated six months ago it proved controversial on several counts. First, it was made without going through

the normal Civil Service procedures of open competition and at a salary more than twice that of a comparable civil servant. Not something calculated to improve sagging Civil Service morale at a time when the Government is squeezing public sector salaries.

Mr Levene, moreover, was appointed for a term of five years, well beyond the span of the present administration — for a job which is so political that it would be highly unlikely to survive a change of government. Initially the Government said that Mr Levene was appointed as a civil servant. When it was pointed out that he had not satisfied the rules monitored by some very unhappy Civil Service Commissioners it was stated that he had been seconded. The Government was thereupon told that this, too, was illegal because people on secondment needed a certificate of qualification from the CSC because of obvious conflicts of interest which could arise in their dealings with companies with which they formerly had close links. To get around this Mr Levene was not seconded, but "appointed" for a five year contract with provision that he does not deal with companies with which he has had strong links.

Mrs Thatcher justified the appointment on the grounds that the Government is spending £8 billion a year on the defence equipment programme and it was important to get maximum value for money. The overriding requirement, she said, was for a more commercial approach which brings with it the need to inject "best business practices" into the work of the procurement executive.

The first glimpse of these best business practices is not altogether encouraging. It appears that a subsidiary of Mr Levene's firm called United Scientific Instruments has become well known in the trade for paying above the odds for so-called "commissions" to middlemen introducing overseas contracts. In 1983 this subsidiary paid out almost £2.7 million in commissions on sales of £30.2 million or over 90 per cent compared to a more normal 2 to 5 per cent. Well, it is not the best business practice, certainly the highest.

The Government continues to justify this appointment on the grounds that someone who knows all the wheezes from the other side is best placed to make reforms once he joins the gamekeepers. But Mr Levene will need to produce some very early results to justify one of the most unhappy appointments of recent years.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Local accountability that the chains of centralism release

Sir,—We read Hugo Young's commentary of June 25 with interest because in common with many other writers on the subject, he appears to us to overlook one crucial aspect of the rates issue and in the process misses one of its great ironies.

The point is this: the rating system has been, and in all cases except where authorities have been rate-capped remains, part of the strategy for the control of local spending. Local rate bases have long been inadequate for the loads which are put upon them, so that ratepayers are obliged to shoulder an undue burden in the hope that they will prompt local authorities to restrain their spending.

Back in 1979, Layfield identified accountability in terms of those who determine expenditure, then financing it; but what we have seen — as foreshadowed in the Treasury evidence to Layfield — is the attempt to use local accountability to "deliver" the national public expenditure plans for local spending.

To this end, over the period since Layfield there have been the following pressures put upon the rating system to prompt local preferences in this way:

After the Treasury's fears in its evidence to Layfield that ratepayer pressure was being "bought off" by grant increases, a steady reduction in grant levels from a proportion of about 65.5 per cent in 1979 to about 48.7 per cent in 1983-84, leaving ratepayers to find the difference;

The block grant system which specifies, in effect, a rate burden to match any given level of an authority's spending;

"Penalties" — i.e. potentially very large block grant reductions — calculated in terms of increases in rate burdens for the authorities affected — once authorities exceed their "targets" based on the public expenditure plans.

Undeniably, therefore, there has in Layfield's terms been an increase in local accountability; those who determine local expenditure decisions (ratepayers) are now financing a greater propor-

tion of that expenditure. At the same time central control over the level of spending local authorities undertake has increased.

Local accountability and central control are therefore not the opposites which Hugo Young implies, but rather the former has in effect become the official euphemism for the latter.

That this strategy has not worked is clear. Local preferences have not forced local spending into line with the public expenditure totals, and the Government has therefore seen fit to introduce rate-capping. At the same time, and this is the real irony, the Government has had its fingers burned by the attempt to introduce "local accountability" and "protecting local ratepayers" have become the watchwords for a search for new means of funding local spending.

As Hugo Young points out, the Treasury is not known to be enthusiastic about this search. But we would argue that this is because there is some evidence that local rate bases, combined with selective rate-capping, might in fact now deliver the control of local spending which it has long sought.

The search for another source of funding for local spending at once jeopardises the control which the Treasury is able to exert, and obliges it to ensure that the new local tax base — however it is to be constituted — is at least as adequate as its predecessor supporting local spending. — Yours faithfully, Peter Williams, 62 St Dunstan's Road, London W6.

Sir,—There is an awful fascination in the spectacle of a Government attempting to introduce a system of local taxation infinitely more regressive than the rating system as the electoral consequences of that change begin to impinge even on the minds of the present Cabinet. On one point, however, Hugo Young's Commentary is wrong: the fall-back option of centralising education would not reduce ratepayers' income. It would be accompanied by abolition of

all or most of the rate support grant. — Yours faithfully, Peter Greig, 29 Park Avenue, London N22.

Sir,—You report (June 21) the decision of the GLC and three of the Met counties to join the Association of County Councils (ACC). But no one has yet produced any sensible reasons why they should do so.

Is it the latest convulsion in their death throes? Have they all a mad urge to chuck their money around before the Government can get its hands on it? I have no doubt the ACC will be grateful for another £178,000 this year, but what are the ratepayers in the GLC, West Yorkshire, Merseyside, and Tyne and Wear getting for it?

I could understand it if it gave the Labour Party control of the ACC by devious but legal means. But it doesn't. It can't. We in the ACC Alliance Group will have the balance of power regardless of these manoeuvres.

Three of the councils have given no reasons why they wish to join, 13 years after

they could first have done so and nine months before their disappearance.

Merseyside says the ACC can provide it with an additional forum and medium for promoting its views on the issues of the day (gee, thanks) and that it will "strengthen any representations being made by the association upon those and other matters".

Really? To whom? To Messrs Thatcher, Joseph, Jenkin, and Co? The fact is that the Tories have lost control of the ACC through the democratic vote of the shire counties' electors. Thus the ACC will, in its representations to Government and elsewhere, reflect a majority of the people in those areas.

The pathetic meddling by Ken Livingstone and his cronies can only weaken the ACC and its efforts to maintain and improve services, defend and open up the local democratic process, in the face of a hostile Government. Let the meddlers take their little games elsewhere.

Yours faithfully, Tough Greaves, 2 Barton Street, Colne, Lancashire.

Sir,—In the past week the extreme effects of the new "board-and-lodge" rule have been publicised. But though the suicides have personally concerned the Tin Man, Tony Newton, they must not be allowed to obscure the more general level of suffering imposed on a large population of young people.

As a councillor for the seat of area in Brighton, I have witnessed the serious effects of the ruling. Indeed one of my constituents attempted suicide after her son's benefit was cut.

Despite minor reforms this regulation remains one of the most iniquitous and vicious effects of the ruling. Indeed one of my constituents attempted suicide after her son's benefit was cut.

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It is easy to assume from the sums the DHSS spends on the "Costa del Dole" that the rooms provided are palatial. In my area this is just not so. The bed-and-breakfast "hotels" are usually subdivided Regency houses. The rooms are small and dirty. The hotels are environmental health and fire officers' nightmares.

As for reuniting families, in the majority of cases I have dealt with the reverse is true. In one instance a family living in a B & B were to be split up with the 16-year-old son losing his benefits. In another, a young couple was forced to move from their home town of Luton. Their "holiday" in Brighton comprised a 3 1/2 nights sleeping rough, days of waiting at the DHSS offices, and a total of £80 to live on for two weeks. Despite the Government's rhetoric about "common sense" this ruling is about as dumb as it gets. How many more suicides will it take before the Government repeals the whole ruling? — Yours, (Cllr) Sarah Cullen, 10 Silverwood Place, Brighton.

Kicking sand in the faces of the 'Costa del Dole' victims

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The dislocated arm of the Metropolitan law

Sir,—Richard Wells (Letters, June 20) in attempting to defend the effectiveness of the Metropolitan police, gives voice to a catalogue of elementary criminological errors which serve more as a public relations exercise than as a candid attempt to overcome the crisis of policing in this country.

He informs us that clear-up rates are an "inadequate measure" of police efficiency. This is rather like the managing director of Ford telling us that car production is an inadequate measure of his company's efficiency.

Is the public not right to be concerned about the clear-up of crime? Should Londoners not be worried that the clear-up rate has fallen 13 per cent over the last 10 years despite a 28 per cent increase in police manpower?

Is it not a legitimate cause for concern that the number of crimes cleared up per police officer has fallen over a decade by 18 per cent in the Metropolitan police district to a pitiful 4 per officer, while there has been an 18 per cent rise in the rest of the country?

Mr Wells falls back on the rather worn defence that really serious offences like sexual offences or violence against the person do have

high clear-up rates. This is, of course, a high proportion of these offences are committed by people who know the victim well and where the victim, or an acquaintance, informs the police.

It is in those offences where the offender is unknown, and some real detective work is therefore vital, that the clear-up rate is disastrously low. Such offences are indeed ones upon which the police are "unlikely to make a real impact"; but herein lies the key to the current crisis.

The solution of such crimes requires a willing flow of information from the public to the police. Such information flow is declining precisely because of the deteriorating relations between police and public in our inner-city areas.

Nor should the special duties of the Metropolitan police, or the demands of the miners' strike, be allowed to excuse their overall poor performance. The Police Studies Institute survey, commissioned by the police themselves, found that only 2 per cent of police time was devoted to special events, and most of the aid to other forces during the miners' strike was covered by overtime.

The crisis in efficiency of

the Met began a long time before the miners' strike. It is therefore rather difficult to recruit that event as an excuse for the general decline in policing standards.

It ill behoves public relations officers like Richard Wells to criticise those criminologists involved in what he terms "open education". As a matter of fact the majority of criminologists involved in independent research are alarmed by the decline in police performance.

This underscores the need for an independent public body which would audit and evaluate police performance.

As it is not only do we suffer a grossly inefficient police force, but we find ourselves paying for a public relations exercise aimed at concealing that inefficiency.

Mr Wells unwittingly contributes to the case for increased public scrutiny and accountability of the police. He concludes that the Met will have to make difficult choices between finer, differentiated priorities.

Who, we may ask, is to make such choices? At present in the police forces of England and Wales such choices are made by 43 men—chief constables and the Metropolitan police commissioner—who are accountable to absolutely no one.

An involvement of the public, through the channels of local and national government, in choosing and debating those priorities would go a long way to create a police force that enjoys public confidence and cooperation in the joint activity of combating crime.

John Lea, School of Sociology, Middlesex Polytechnic.

Futures letters — page 15

Miscellany

Sir,—Richard Boston (Guardian, June 25) should thank his lucky stars he did not attend the same school as Winston Churchill.

The great man tells us (My Early Life) that at the same age, seven, and just one hour after joining the school, his form master explained that the "vocative means" was used when speaking to a table. Churchill pointed out that he never did speak to tables and promptly was severely punished for impudence.

Yours sincerely, Vic O'Shea, Bristol.

Sir,—Blind MPs (Letters, June 20). What about Henry Fawcett who was blinded in a shooting accident at the age of 24, but went on to become Postmaster-General in Gladstone's Government? — Yours faithfully, Patricia Pegg, Wetherhampton.

Sir,—Contrary to your report about director for the Royal Ballet, the period for which the company was criticised for some fall in standards was during Norman Morrice's illness, which indicates more than his leadership was missed than the contrary. — Yours sincerely, Sylvia Tyler, London ECL.

Sir,—Andrew Veitch, in his article Mothers' Agony in Caesarean Births (June 13) quotes the Association for Improvements in Maternity Services as "claiming" that "in three of the main Manchester hospitals, Stepping Hill, Withington and Wythenshawe—between a quarter and a third of all babies are delivered by Caesarean". In fact, the actual figure is less than half this number. — Yours faithfully, J. R. Jones, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Withington Hospital, Manchester.

Ambassador of America's cult of degradation

Sir,—Prof. Higgs could afford to blunder in his analysis of the American attitude to victory (June 24).

The American tough guy — often mindless, coarse of speech, and inarticulate — spread through popular culture in the inter-war years, mainly through the much overrated and meretricious product of the American film industry. For economic reasons, few other countries could compete with or help to balance the world view as presented by Hollywood, with the result that most people today in the West are more deeply influenced in terms of personal aspiration or interpersonal relations by these entirely fictional images than by, for example, religious, social, or political commentaries.

The tough guy is America's singular gift to the modern world. There may be some truth in Prof. Higgs's hint that he was spawned by Moby Dick and perhaps shared by Ernest Hemingway. He is certainly now rampant.

loud-mouthed and cocky, in the flood of US books, films, and TV which now pour into these islands like bilgewater. In his tiresome conformity to this dismal image, John McGraw should not surprise us. Far from being independent, with direct and spontaneous manifestations of his own personality, John McGraw is predictable, typical, and graceless.

Happily for those like myself who see with sadness the fading of the American dream, all is not lost. Along



side the absurd tradition of the American tough guy exists the more fruitful tradition of decency and grace: Emerson, Whitman, James and Fitzgerald.

Jack Higgs does a disservice to his fellow-countrymen when, in their name, he dignifies with the title of religion the cult of degradation which is doing so much to America under the world.

— Yours sincerely, Ian Flintoff, 22 Chaldon Road, London SW4.

Palestinian chicken and egg

Sir,—Michael Adams (Agenda, June 24) blames Israel and its allies for the current Beirut hostage crisis.

Yet in his historical analysis he fails to mention that it was the PLO that brought the present wave of terror, murder, and destruction to Lebanon. From Lebanon the unwelcome PLO waged war on Israel, using the civilian population as a shield against reprisal.

True, the hijack would not have happened were it not for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon; but the invasion would not have happened were it not for the PLO presence in Lebanon, which was very much against the will of its inhabitants. The Shia hijackers are certainly not indiscriminate;

their actions have been planned to discredit Israel and the US as much as possible, with no respect for innocent civilian life. And this sort of action is fanatical violence. Naturally, the Shias see this course of action as rational, but we must condemn it for what it is.

I join Mr Adams in his hopes of an early release of the hijack victims from their ordeal. But from events so far, particularly the capture of those hostages with Jewish-sounding names, it seems the aims of the hijackers are bloody. Cooperation needs care. — Yours faithfully, J. D. Schiff, Trinity College, Cambridge.

So roomy

Sir,—In his report (June 22) of the highly successful launch of Birmingham's bid to host the 1992 Olympic Games, John Rodda suggests this city does not have enough hotel beds to cater for vast numbers of visitors.

He is wrong. In addition to more than 52,700 beds in more than 3,200 hotels, there are many more in private hotels and guest houses, the numbers of which are growing all the time. A top class hotel is being built in the city centre, with yet another almost ready to go into construction. And we believe a further seven major hotel sites will be taken up by 1992. — Yours faithfully, (Cllr) Bryan Bird, Birmingham City Council.

A COUNTRY DIARY

DARTMOOR: Dirty weather while driving to the moor caused me to change my plans. I went instead to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum at Exeter where an exhibition of Dartmoor paintings was on view in connection with the city's arts festival. The exhibits reveal the change in attitude to wild landscape which occurred between the 18th and 20th centuries as industrialisation gradually permeated the country. Jane Baker points out in her catalogue that early draughtsmen and chroniclers disliked moorland and described what is now appreciated as a place of escape, a refuge, a wilderness, a hell, a dreary waste. When the influence of Romanticism was felt the 1,500 feet average additional height of Snowdonia, the Lake District, and Scottish mountains gave them scale and variety of scenery not matched by Dartmoor's central plateaux. So atmospheric Dartmoor which had been the seat of thriving Bronze Age communities, was somewhat neglected by well-known painters; and when Turner, on one of his tours, painted Buckfast Abbey, the Dart Valley was made to resemble the upper Rhine. But the museum has found no difficulty in filling a gallery with Dartmoor work largely by Devon artists. Some, such as Francis Towne and Samuel Proust, also made their mark at a national level; most are known only through the records of their home ground. At first they chose bridges and rivers as subjects. Not until the Wildgories, father and son, is there whole-hearted interest in the wider moor, its valleys, streams and rock formations, for its own sake. The postcard-sized drawings and watercolours of T. A. Falcon gave me much pleasure. BRIAN CRUICK

WEEKEND

SPORT

Frank Keating on tonight's big fight, which has captured the public imagination more than any contest since Cooper-Ali 19 years ago

McGuigan - Pedroza: The open-air epic

BARRY MCGUIGAN'S challenge for Eusebio Pedroza's WBA world featherweight title at the QPR football ground tonight has stirred as much interest as Henry Cooper's championship contest against Muhammad Ali in the summer of 1966. Perhaps even more so. In our hearts we knew Henry would come to harm's end, but tonight half the 25,000 in attendance will have thronged across the Irish Sea presuming on the certainty of only one outcome.

For reasons other than far-fetched patriotism, it is devoutly to be wished that an awful anti-climax will not trigger off any disturbing reactions once the clouds have cleared and the moon gets up tonight. Drinks will not be on sale in the stadium. The police must do their job.

Certainly room service will run dry in every Kilburn boardinghouse if the young man does his stuff. Inside a couple of years, McGuigan has become far more than your routine, transient sporting hero. He has not done much, but he is already up there with Ian Botham: just simply, he has unified the torn and tired cities of siege.

It happens that I live opposite a convent in London, speckled with delightful nuns. The only prizefight these dear priestesses recall was that long-ago sell-out when Kid Cain beat Sugar Ray Abel, but yesterday afternoon they were all a-twitter about young Barry's chances.

Across the water in the sun-drenched Párlaimint, the big spotted bandwaggon that he so likes will be mopping that great brow of a brow as the Rev Ian himself also sweats on the result.

It is not often that Tory cabinet ministers get caught up in our pre-fight palaver, yet on TV the other day there was the former Northern Ireland minister, James Prior, solemnly insisting that Barry had enjoined all bigots

in happy harmony. "the most Catholic, the most Protestant, the most Republican, the most Unionist."

Even by the usual standards of pre-match hype — what's this, the third fight of the Century this year? — the confrontation must be seen this morning as a classic one. The virile young fighter versus the cruel and ageing old craftsman. McG is 25, Pedroza four years older, and even his friends say it is more like seven.

This is the Panamanian's astonishing 20th defence of his title. He must be very good indeed. Only a brave man bets on this one.

If I was a betting man I would put my five on the champion. If there happened to be a pub adjoining the betting shop, as there often is, I would go in after placing my bet, ruminatively down a couple of pints and go smartish next door and slap down a tenner on the braising young challenger.

If the relentless, hurtful young man does not early run the old fox to ground, as a hunter with the blood up, I know our money will be drifting towards the Central American, the longer the terrible thing goes on.

Pedroza has paced himself through the full 15 rounds on nine occasions in those 19 defences. McGuigan has once only gone ten rounds, on that epic night in Belfast in the New Year against LaPorte, when among other things the courageous Irishman showed his chin had no connection with Waterford.

Yet such a scenario has a reverse side. Nature may hold up the mirror tonight. The wiles and guiles, the bony elbows and knobby knees and all the tawdry tricks of the mass-voiced trade in which the older man is said to be so well versed, could horribly disconcert the venomous but inexperienced young bull in front of him. McGuigan must do more: an paw the ground in front of him and snort.



IRISH EYES ARE CONFIDENT: Barry McGuigan and his manager Barney Eastwood

Picture by Garry Weezer

Against LaPorte on that heady night, McGuigan sustained a relentless piston-engine attack for ten rounds. Watching it, holding one's breath, was like the first time you caught the childhood express to holiday. On and on, never running out of breath, tara-tara-turrrrr...

Might tonight's old warrior be happy to call it a day at the 20th time of asking and be carried out on his shield around the half hour? LaPorte, who was beaten controversially by Pedroza two years ago, reckons McGuigan will win by half-way — but if he doesn't, the longer it goes on, he is betting on the wily Pedroza.

The spidery, somber-faced and sinister veteran is by all accounts no respecter of the rules if he can get away

with it. In the heat of the night, the groin to him is as valid a target as the chin. It hurts more, he knows, to go for the kidneys than the breastbone. Yet McGuigan, for all the knightly courtesy, will know once the bell goes that he will be carrying far more dark images than that bright banner of country Queen and Queensbury. Simply, the shining boy must know how to play dirty. This will be no pre-school three rounder.

Fair enough, I suppose, to set it up at Goodie & Baddie — what prizefight has not been so? It sells tickets and this paper even had to set up the idea of the relentless, wiry, electrically charged non-stop white tornado against the programmed, unscrupulous ferret-faced

foulard. The fan hits the shit, you might say...

Anyway, there are no more strokes to sell that's why the mums will be renewing their radio batteries this morning.

To Pedroza, who has been gyspying around the world with increasing elegance and style, taking on and dismissing yet another young blood with pretensions, this is just another working day. The man has made it; he served a long apprenticeship out of the Panama City slums and now, deservedly, is adept at picking up large bundles of booty without even bothering to remove the large Crimson glove from his right hand.

McGuigan, bless him, has dreamed of this day, he says, from the very birthday morning that his father Pat

gave the 12-year-old, then called Finbar, his first shiny black plastic schoolboy boxing gloves from Woolworth's.

At first his family thought that Barry might be rather nifty at soccer, but his pals thought him too warlike and rumbustious for a middle-aged man, and once he joined the boxing club in a hut about 10 miles away from the little border town of Clones, Barry was hooked and, literally, hooked.

The lad would cycle there every evening after school and his test-time turn behind the counter at the family grocery store. Those shoulders came from the humping of potatoes to 'front of houses' and again in 1975.

He would be up with those blissful slivery dawns they

have over there and before humping a bit more in the shop became the pride of the village for being, when still a baby-faced teenager, probably all-Ireland's first jogging freak. Through the local finals, the nationals, the Commonwealth Games and Olympics his amateur development was as steady as it has been professionally spectacular.

Immediately after his last fight in Belfast, I was telephoned next morning as I was still recovering from the frenzy of it all. A good friend who works on Terry Wogan's BBC chat show: Would McGuigan come over to London next evening for lots of money to take part in the thrice-weekly eyebrow-raising contest that Wogan now hosts?

Barry would not consider it, even if they trebled the fee. Why, he had promised to attend a local party with his friends, hadn't he? All of Ulster was there every man and girl from the fraternity. It was quite a do, I'm told. Barry wore a bow tie that lit up. It was lovely to see him amongst them.

I thought of that night when I saw him seen off from Belfast airport this Monday by a back-slapping throng which included Mary Peters, Willie John McBride and Dennis Taylor. They were catching the later flight and will be there today at the ringside, of course.

"Whatever happens," Barry told me that evening, "I just want to stay among these friends of mine." He will have enough around him tonight, sure enough. Let's just hope the rain as well as the outcome does not dampen what promises to be a famous night.

Come to think of it, that last draining, dramatic occasion of happy summers ago, when Cooper took on the nonpareil Ali was also in the open air — at Arsenal FC. All down the years, in fact, since well before Queensberry even, the most epic prize-fights were held outdoors, under the old English stars.

In this century, the first fight I heard broadcast was from Tottenham Hotspur with Bruce Woodcock, and old men still tell me tales of White City nights in the Twenties and Thirties.

Back in the morning mist of time, Humphries and Mendoza fought in Hampshire, after which Humphries gave his backer one of the great battle reports of history: "I have done a duce and am in good health." Cribb beat Molyneux, the Negro slater, at Thistleton Gap near Leicester, and Pearce and Gully went to war at Hailsham in Sussex.

Last week I made a point of driving through Newbury and up to Hungerford Downs. It was difficult to sense what it might have been... Neat v. Hickman in December 1821, I suppose it is the most celebrated of all because Hazlitt wrote about it.

The London columnist Pugin also wrote about Neat v. Hickman on one-and-a-half centuries ago: "They waited for the result, which was being sent either by horseman or pigeon. Such was the intense feeling in the city that the streets were crowded as if an election contest was at its height."

All were inquiring the result, which was known centrally at about 7 o'clock... It is impossible to describe the anxiety of the great crowd of people who surrounded all the sporting houses of the metropolis to learn of the event."

Yet I doubt if either the nuns or non-conformists were sweating on that result as much as they will be tonight. Under WBA rules, three knockdowns in one round will end the fight even if the floored fighter beats the count each time. There will also be a mandatory eight-count, each knockdown, and eight-ounce gloves will be worn instead of six-ounce which apply for British championships at this weight.

The fight will be televised live on BBC-1, starting at 8.40 pm tonight.

Too much too soon for the tennis babes

David Irvine on the growing pains which are embarrassing the professional game

WITH her Latin good looks, rich auburn hair and slim figure, Gabriela Sabatini could be taken for a model or film star. Neither occupation interests her. Her sole ambition is to be the best tennis player in the world. And this week she took a firm step towards that goal by reaching the semi-finals of the French championship.

In many ways Gabby, as she is inevitably known, has answered the prayers of those who continually fret about the image of the women's game. At the time she is something of an embarrassment. Though she looks older, she celebrated her 15th birthday only three weeks ago, and pressure is growing to bar players under 16 from professional competition.

Sabatini may turn out to be an exception to the rule, but increasing concern has been expressed during the past two years about the damaging mental and physical effects suffered by youngsters entering the game at a time when neither their bodies nor their minds are fully developed.

Few would argue that there is no problem. No one can ignore the brief and tragic careers of Tracy Austin and Andrea Jaeger; Bjorn Borg's sudden retirement at 26, or the stress effects which forced Jimmy Arias to encase his shoulder in ice after every match.

However, opinions are divided on how it should be tackled. Some, Martina Navratilova among them, want a clear-cut ban on all players until they are 16. Others, and notably officials of the two player organisations, prefer a gradual introduction system, with a maximum of four events at 14 and eight at 15.

One of the difficulties in examining this subject is that most of those engaged in the debate — and so in the Tennis Federation recommendation will be at their annual meeting in Barcelona next month



EXCEPTIONAL: The talented and level-headed Gabriela Sabatini

— have a vested interest. Jean-Paul Lotz, head of the French Federation's coaching organisation, is one who has been able to step back and view the dangers inherent in accommodating children in an adult and highly commercialised environment.

He is unequivocal in his attitude. "They should not be there. You cannot talk with them. They know nothing about anything, only tennis. You can't talk music, you can't talk literature, you can't talk anything. They live in a micro-world when they should be thinking about the normal problems of their age. We have an obligation to see that they grow up normally."

Already the French have discounted the practice of ranking players below the age of 15. It has not been popular — agents and sponsors like to latch on to promising youngsters as soon as they reach their teens — but Lotz sees it as a necessary safeguard.

Navratilova, leader of the women's game since 1981, admits that an age limit could penalise players like Sabatini, Steffi Graf and the 13-year-old American Mary Jo Fernandez, but believes if a few are sacrificed for the general good, then so be it.

"The circuits are still going to be there when they reach 16," she says. There's no rush, Wimbledon, Paris and the US Open aren't going to go away. Nor is the prize money.

Those who seek to preserve the status quo, while acknowledging that there are casualties, insist that players and their parents should have freedom of choice in the matter. "How can you worry about Gabby?" asks Sabatini's coach, Parcia Apsey. "Look, you can see, she's having fun. She's enjoying herself. This is what she wants."

I remember Tracy Austin's coach saying the same thing at Wimbledon years ago,

David Davies recalls an epic US Open win over next week's championship course

Hogan's heroics at Oakland Hills

IT HAD been quite a party, a semi-communal near Sawgrass in Florida, and Tom Weiskopf was by now being fairly dogmatic.

"Ben Hogan," he said, "is the finest golfer who ever drew breath. There has never been anyone to touch him. He was the best striker of the ball and had more control over it than anyone — ever, ever, ever."

Someone said: "Aw, come off the fence, Tom. Tell us what you really think, and the moment passed in laughter. But the point remains, and coming from one of the most talented, if unfilled, golfers the world has seen, it has all the more force.

Hogan inspired that kind of hero worship, not through any outward display, but through sheer skill and force of character. He came back from a horrifying car crash in 1946, in which he was almost killed, to win the US Open three more times, and one of those triumphs was at Oakland Hills, the course near Detroit to which the championship returns next week. During that win Hogan was to play what he called the finest round of his life, over a course he described as "a monster."

The year was 1951, and it was the first championship Hogan had played in after his accident. He was still not all that proficient at walking, had to have long, thin batons every morning and night, and there were those who doubted whether he could stay the competitive pace so soon after the smash.

There was an additional major problem. Oakland Hills, and the United States Golf Association, had decided the golf course should be all-but-impossible.

They called in Robert Trent Jones, the golf course architect, who first of all added 66 bunkers, then narrowed the fairways and let the rough grow. For many players, there was simply nowhere to go and the par of 70 was beaten only twice during the entire championship.

One of those to beat it was Hogan, with a final round of 67.

In taking the third of his four US Open Championships he had displayed all the qualities of courage and determination that have made him legend. After two

rounds he was five behind the leader, the portly and unpopular (with Americans) Bobby Locke. The South African was four over, Hogan, nine, and there were 15 players between them.

Hogan applied all his golfing brain to the final two rounds, played on the same day in those times, and a test of endurance for the 38-year-old. He went round in 71 in the morning, and was now only two behind Locke and Jimmy Demaret: he knew he could now catch his men.

Hogan went to the turn in level par in the afternoon, and began back with the single stroke that may have won him the championship. The 10th then measured 448 yards and Hogan, with nearly 200 yards to go to the pin, hit a two-iron second which, he was to say later, was the best shot of the best round of his life. "It went exactly as I played it, every inch of the way," and it finished a yard from the hole for a birdie.

Hogan came to the 18th two under par, hit a drive and six-iron into the green of a hole 459 yards long, holed from 18 feet, and knew that he had won the title.

No one next week will have so severe a task. After the championship the course was restored more nearly to the original design of Donald Ross, with the removal of 49 bunkers. Not that the course will not be formidable: it will measure around 7,067 yards, will feature the captured rough that the USGA have made their own — repeatedly reseeded — trademark, and whoever wins will first of all have to dare.

But whether the 1985 champion will ever cause US presidents to rearrange their schedules is another matter. In September 1974 the Hall of Fame was to be opened at Pinchurst, and Gerald Ford, as vice-president, had agreed to do the honours. Then in August Nixon was disgraced, and Ford felt he must cancel.

Two days after he did so, there came a call from the White House. "Is Ben Hogan going to be there?" asked an aide. "Yes," he was told. "Then," said the aide, "you may count on the president being there too."

A second bodyline series delivering the wrong lines

John Arlott on the TV version of the 1932-33 Ashes saga

THE BBC screening of the Hayes/Schultz film *Bodyline* added seven hours 20 minutes to what was already the longest squal in sporting history, one which has now gone on for 23 years. It has invariably happened in Test cricket that a side with a considerable advantage in fast bowling has beaten its opponents: as witness the West Indies' run of success, now so long as almost to bore them.

It has certainly been part of the historical pattern of England-Australia cricket. When England were weakened by two world wars, its batsmen were routed by Gregory and MacDonald in 1921, and by Lindwall and Miller in 1948; while, to demonstrate that they do not need the assistance of a war, the Australians did it in 1975-5 and again in 1975.

It almost invariably happens, too, that when batsmen faced by greater pace than they normally encounter in their own domestic game, the element of intimidation — part of the armoury of fast bowlers since cricket began — results in injuries to batsmen. That has been the case in virtually every instance of this imbalance, except in 1954-5, when Tyson and Statham simply did not employ that weapon.

Larwood, Voce and Bowes, under Jardine in Australia in 1932-3, undoubtedly did so, won the rubber by four Tests to one, and retained The Ashes. The Australians resented it; and, apparently, many of them who were not even born in 1933 still do so.

It is true that the legendary chestnut by the Australian press "bodyline" was successfully designed to defeat Don Bradman, whom Douglas Jardine saw, correctly, to be Australia's leading batsman and likely match-winner.

This account of the series, however, is not only corny, but inaccurate — unconvincing corn which still flourishes in the old testament. This is not the first attempt to retell the story: there have been at least 15 books on the series (12 of them Australian) running endlessly up to this year, and of which



RUNNING JOKE: Jim Holt is unconvincing at Larwood

only one can be described as objective. Arthur Mailey, Test cricketer and professional journalist, who watched the entire tour, wrote *And Then Came Larwood*, which is the fairest account.

It is surprising to find in the Radio Times' advance notice of the Hayes/Schultz series the claim that: "It is surprising that nobody until now has made a film or television drama about bodyline."

In fact, the BBC itself, in its series *Forty Minutes* (screened originally on November 6, 1983, then repeated on November 12, 1983 and August 2, 1984) presented an unquestionably accurate account of the main incidents of the 1932-33 Tests, edited entirely from contemporary newsreels by Alan Patten.

On the other hand, the so-called newsreel included in the Hayes/Schultz film is a manifestly faked and patently inaccurate view of the departure of Jardine's team from London. The entire film is unconvincing, basically because the film actors seen "in action" — apart from one or two "tricked-in" shots of actual players — carry no conviction.

The run-up of the film "Larwood" for instance, is quite comic: and, in tune with the rest of the cast, he pulled more histrionic faces and made more hand gestures in a quarter-hour than the real Larwood did in a lifetime.

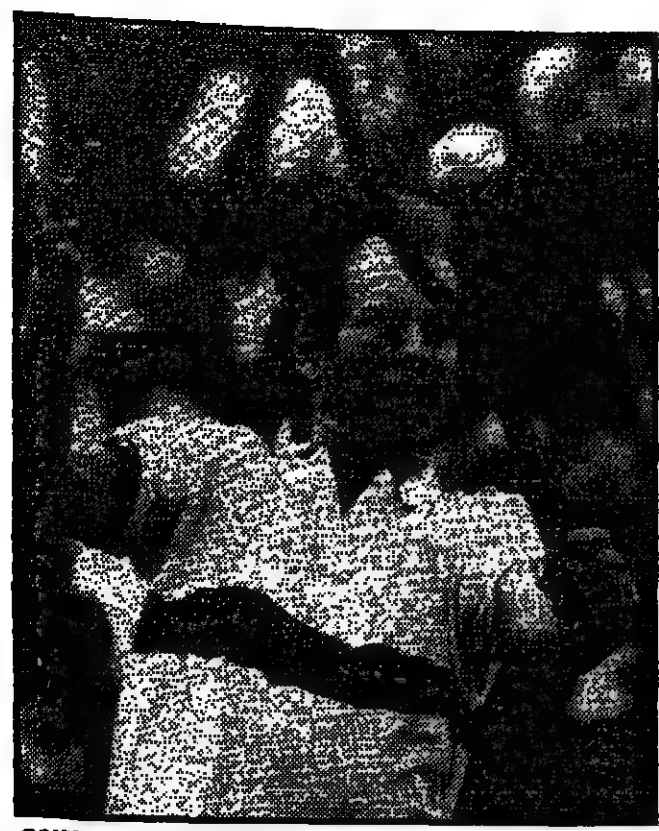
That accepted, though, and

since the lines required of the cricketers generally are puerile, something much better could and should have been done about the likenesses. For instance, Bradman, who was fair, of no more than average height, compact, broad-shouldered and nimble, is presented as tall, dark and handsome, but as clumsy on his feet as anyone ever filmed walking downstairs.

Of the English characters, it is difficult not to suspect an element of the old bitterness in representing P. F. Warner, who was slight and rather delicate, as a fat man; Lord Harris, who was tall and slim, as grossly heavy; and above all, Douglas Jardine, who was physically a patrician and elegant figure, as one with sticking-out ears and an intrusive strine whine.

There is an attempt to dramatise a situation in which Jardine tells Larwood to bowl bodyline. In fact, that tactic was worked out in conference between Jardine and Arthur Carr, the Nottinghamshire captain, in England during the preceding summer; as anyone who watched Larwood and Voce bowling — as this writer did — for Nottinghamshire against Essex at Leyton and Glamorgan at Cardiff during the August before the team left for Australia would know.

It has been suggested that the film was made to explain bodyline to those who know nothing about cricket, and that such people enjoyed it. Only they possibly could.



GONE WITH THE WIND... McEnroe blamed the weather

David Irvine reports from Paris on the semi-final successes of Wilander and Lendl

French with tears for Americans

TENNIS

IT TAKES a big occasion to inspire Mats Wilander, and in his eyes, none bigger than the French Open. Yesterday the 20-year-old Swede whose last title win of the tour was Australian in Melbourne six months ago, again rose magnificently to the grand slam challenge in a dull, damp and windy Paris, scoring a conclusive 6-1, 7-5, 7-5 semi-final victory over the world No. 1, John McEnroe.

So, for the fourth time in five years, the Americans, who have ranked among the top three, find themselves shut out of tomorrow's final. In an earlier and even more emphatic straight-sets decision, Ivan Lendl, the holder, crushed Jimmy Connors 6-2, 6-3, 6-1. The 30-

year wait for an American winner goes on.

Lendl's triumph was no real surprise. Far less predictable was the fall of McEnroe. After his agonising defeat by the Czech in last year's final, the American has brooded on revenge for the past 12 months. He could scarcely have expected Wilander to produce his best tennis and deny him that chance, particularly as he considered the Swede's ambition in the game less than total.

There have been times recently when I have been very bored with tennis," admitted Wilander. "But I have been looking forward to this one for months." "I agree I play well in the big events. I don't know why. Maybe deep inside I am not concentrating one hundred per cent at some other tournament. But here, I am. Concentration seemed to

be the least of Wilander's problems in a pulsating third set when McEnroe, having seen a 5-1 lead whittled down to 5-4, had set points denied by two thundering serves. Wilander swept through the last six games just as, at the start, he had taken six in a row.

McEnroe, though grudgingly acknowledging the Swede's ability to adjust to the conditions, blamed his defeat on the wind and the slow court. And, unbelievably, on the speed of the first match. "I didn't expect it to be over so quickly. I just wasn't ready."

It was a lame excuse, and uncharacteristic of him. While it is true that McEnroe is more vulnerable when it is windy, because his style of play leaves such little margin for error, his defeat turned on his failure to respond to severe break-point opportunities in the second set, and

the loss of that clear-cut lead in the third.

Wilander played the key points superbly, cutting McEnroe down with pinpoint passes, bold volleys and accurate backhand serves. Unlike 1982, when he won the title as a 17-year-old, he was always looking for opportunities to attack and McEnroe's backhand too often folded under pressure.

"I was more confident going into the McEnroe match than I will be going into the Lendl match," said Wilander. "I still feel I have a chance to beat him. Right now Lendl has reached the top level. You can't play any better than he does at the moment."

Connors must have felt that. It is rare to find the American going through a match, particularly one lasting two hours, without creating an opportunity to take his opponent's serve. With

four tournament and 23 singles victories behind him on the grand prix circuit, the Czech certainly looks unbeatable. But he was on a 44-match streak when the Swede stopped him en route to this championship three years ago.

Lendl's own assessment of his form is "my best, or close to my best." His record over the past two weeks supports this: 30 far, he has dropped only 36 games — 17 less than in reaching the final last year. He is almost robot-like in his approach: a cold and ruthless adding machine.

Today Lendl will study tapes of Wilander's matches in Paris to help determine his own strategy. Wilander, meanwhile, knows what he must do: "I have got to be patient, work my way into every game and into the net," he said. It could be a long, long afternoon.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Coe leads Haringey challenge

ATHLETICS: Sebastian Coe is determined to lead Haringey to victory in the European clubs' trophy at their own north London stadium this weekend. No British side has ever won the title, and Haringey will face stiff opposition in the 16-club line up, particularly from defending champions Pro Patria Pirelli Milano, from Italy.

Coe runs his Olympic title distance of 1,500m tomorrow, when he is due to face Spaniard Jose Abascal, third in last summer's Los Angeles final. On Sunday Coe goes in the 800m, the distance at which he ran the fastest time of the year — 1min 44sec — three weeks ago.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Secretary-General David Orley yesterday hit out at the vastly increased premiums being asked of clubs for fire insurance after the disaster at Bradford. The Widnes premium has risen from £3,777 to £17,162 and several other clubs have been quoted similar increases.

Orley said: "We shall need answers to two questions: 'how does the insurance industry justify increases of up to 500 per cent on the premiums concerned?' And will such swinging increases also apply to Rugby Union, cricket and soccer grounds?"

RUGBY UNION: France, who finished runner-up to Ireland in the Five Nations Championship, will be without star left-winger Patrick Estève when they open their seven-match tour of Argentina against local club champions San Isidro today. The French, who play two tests against the Pumas later this month, were reduced to a squad of 37 players when Estève broke his left leg while scoring a try against a Brazilian XV in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday.

TENNIS: Nick Fulwood, British No. 11, has been given a wild card entry into the Stella Artois £189,000 tournament at Queen's Club next week. Australia's Pat Cash, the world No. 8, has also been given a wild card, together with Poland's Wojtek Fibak and American Steve Denton.

MOTOR RACING: Andy Wallace defends a slender one-point lead over Russell Spence in Sunday's ninth round of the Marlboro Formula Three Championship at Silverstone.

Barry Sheene continues his quest for honours at the meeting in the Tarmac British Superbike Championship but faces a tough time against the all-conquering turbo Ford Sierra of Andy Rouse.

HANG-GLIDING: John Hendry could today become the first Briton to take the world champion's crown — without even leaving the ground. Flying was called off yesterday because of rain with Hendry just 15 points ahead of Australia's Steve Meyer, the reigning champion. The forecast for today was for more rain in the Austrian Alps, in which case the current scores would stand the result.

Britain's Bob and Graham Slater lie in fourth and fifth places. Britain leads Australia by 240 points in the team trophy stakes.

CANOEING: A quality entry from 10 nations will be battling for honours at the International Regatta at Nottingham next weekend. The British team, led by Olympic paddler Graydon Bould, Jerry West and Kevin Smith, plus 1983 10,000m K3 world champion Alan Williams.

MOTORCYCLING: Ulsterman Joey Dunlop has become only the second rider in Isle of Man TT history to take three race titles in one week by winning yesterday's Superbike race for 1,000cc machines. He equals the record set twice by the late Mike Halewood in 1961 and again in 1967. The win brought Dunlop's earnings for the week to almost £25,000.

Dunlop, 33, from Ballymoney, dominated the race, leading for each of the six laps to win by 16 seconds from his Honda teammate Roger Marshall.

Evening racing

HAYDOCK
6.30 (11m 137m): 1. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 2. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 3. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 4. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 5. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 6. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 7. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 8. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 9. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 10. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 11. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 12. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 13. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 14. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 15. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 16. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 17. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 18. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 19. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 20. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 21. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 22. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 23. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 24. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 25. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 26. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 27. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 28. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 29. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 30. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 31. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 32. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 33. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 34. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 35. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 36. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 37. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 38. NIMBLE, Sandy (12-1), 39. 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Rely on Kilinski's stamina

Richard Baerlein

The 1,000 Guineas winner Oh So Sharp 11-10 favourite looks sure to ease in the betting on the Gold Seal Oaks at Epsom this afternoon. The continuous rain is a set back for this filly of doubtful stamina. In addition although the ante-post bookmakers are more than full up with bets on her, and those on the course have yet to take a penny and in view of the present conditions punters will not favour a very short price, brilliant though her form is in public and at home.

I cannot get away from Henry Cecil's quote which recorded her on Thursday morning: "She would run exceptionally well in the Derby". This suggests she would have at least a few hundredweight to spare. As a filly, her sire Kris was a champion at stud. Oh So Sharp was finishing strongly in the Guineas and should again beat the third Bella Colera but today's race is going to require a filly whose stamina is not in doubt.

Dubian, Kilinski, and Triptych are three that fall readily into that category.

Dubian has been most unlucky in both her races this season. She got no sort of run when beaten by a head by Stella Grande at Epsom. She then came from a long way back to run Fatah Flare to three quarters of a length in the Musidora Stakes at York with the third horse eight lengths behind. She won her only race last season in soft ground at Newbury starting at 33-1. As a daughter of High Line she should stay and improve, and is a fresh filly.

I prefer Kilinski to Dance Machine of John Dunlop's pair on this ground. Kilinski was just over a second slower than Slip Anchor when she won the previous race at Lingfield and those Lingfield trials work out well. The times that day suggest the ground was on the soft side.

Triptych who beat the colts in the Irish 2,000 Guineas is ideally placed to be a mile soft ground performer. Her sire Riverman has produced two Arc winners in Gold River and Detroit and other French classic winners. Alleged in the Arc was a prolific winner in soft ground up to almost two miles. She found the ground too firm when seventh to Oh So

Sharp in the 1,000 Guineas. After winning the Irish 2,000 Guineas she came out a week later to run moderately in the Irish 1,000 and the race may have come too soon. There has only been one other fortnight but David O'Brien must be pleased or he would not be sending her over.

Walter Swinburn set an example when winning the Diomed Stakes on Scottish Reel which was followed by most of the runners in succeeding races when he crossed over to the stands rails as soon as he entered the straight. The advantage proved enormous as Scottish Reel left Catford and Greenville Starkey racing on the opposite side of the course standing. I just hope that Brian Rouse the rider of my selection Kilinski can get the stands rails pitch as soon as they enter the straight. This will be vitally important.

The local trainer Geoff Lewis began to think his luck was changing when Kublai won on Thursday. He really sprang into form yesterday with a treble starting with 5-2 El Alamein followed by the 25-1 Nestor and ending with the 7-2 Pennies To Pounds. Nestor was the pacemaker

in the Northern Dancer Stakes for the 6-1 Rough Pearl who finished well behind. Ian Balding also added two, Braka and Corinth, and they were the first two in the betting, but both finished in the rear positions. Richard Fox on Nestor made all the running and came across to the stand rails to continue his pacemaking mission and held the half-hearted effort by his only challenger Chamblere by four lengths.

Walter Swinburn got down to 8th to ride Scottish Reel, the gamble of the day, when scoring his fourth victory out of four runs in the Diomed Stakes. Sir Gordon Greenville Starkey racing on the opposite side of the course standing. I just hope that Brian Rouse the rider of my selection Kilinski can get the stands rails pitch as soon as they enter the straight. This will be vitally important.

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3.00 GOLD SEAL OAKS: 3-y-o fillies 1m

Winner £11,744; 12 runners

ITV

302	(4)	11-231 BELLA COLORE (Helena Springfield Ltd) M. Stoute 9-0	W. R. Swinburn
		(Black, white spots on body, white cap)	
303	(5)	2104 CALORGE (E. St George) P. Kelleway 9-0	W. Carson
		(Black, magenta quartered cap)	
304	(8)	1-3 DANCE MACHINE (C. Humphris) J. Dunlop 9-0	L. Pigott
		(Brown and green stripes, brown sleeves and cap)	
305	(1)	1-21 DOMINO'S NURSE (N. Robinson) M. Kaimte (Ire) 9-0	C. Ashmussen
		(Navy blue, red and light blue hoop and armlets, white cap)	
306	(12)	1-22 DUBIAN (M. O'Neil) A. Stewart 9-0	Pat Eddery
		(Royal blue, red epaulet, striped cap)	
309	(3)	30-41 KILINSKI (D) (Sheikh Mohammed) J. Dunlop 9-0	B. Rouse
		(Maroon, white sleeves and star on cap)	
310	(11)	13-0 MORNING DEVOTION (BF) (R. Sangster) M. Stoute 9-0	T. Ives
		(Emerald green, royal blue sleeves, white cap green spots)	
312	(9)	111-11 OH SO SHARP (Sheikh Mohammed) H. Cecil 9-0	S. Cuthbert
		(Maroon, white sleeves and star on cap)	
313	(2)	3-22 PERFECT MATCH (BF) (A. Clere) B. Hills 9-0	Y. Saint Martin
		(Light blue, blue and mauve halved sleeves)	
314	(10)	0-21 PETRADIA (Capt M. Lemos) C. Brittain 9-0	P. Robinson
		(Royal blue, white hoop on body, striped cap)	
315	(7)	03-01 ROMANTIC FEELING (D) (Prince Y. Sand) B. Hills 9-0	R. Street
		(Yellow and blue diamonds, yellow sleeves and cap, blue diamonds)	
317	(6)	21-1010 TRIPTYCH (BF) (A. Clere) D. O'Brien (Ire) 9-0	C. Roche
		(Light blue, blue and mauve halved sleeves)	

1984: Circus Phume, 9-0, L. Pigott, 4-1, J. Dunlop, 18, ran.

Betting forecast: 5-4 Oh So Sharp, 7-2 Dubian, 6 Dance Machine, 8 Bella Colera, Kilinski, 10 Triptych, 16 Morning Devotion.

TOP FORM TIPS: Oh So Sharp 10, Dance Machine 7, Bella Colera 6.



CHESS

Leonard Barden

FIDE president Florencio Campomanes last week pronounced Moscow as victors over London and Manila in the contest to stage the return Karpov v. Kasparov world title match which starts on September 2. The GLC was ready to host just part of the series but neither Moscow, who control the players, nor Manila, who made the highest prize money bid of £500,000, was willing to share.

FIDE's executive council met in Tunis and upheld Campomanes's controversial decision to abort the 1984-5 match when Karpov led 5-3 but was in poor health. They also voted for two further Karpov provisions: if he loses, he is entitled to a rematch in February - March 1986, while if he ties after 24 games, he keeps the title. The rematch clause represents London's best chance of a rematch in February - March 1986, while if he ties after 24 games, he keeps the title. The rematch clause represents London's best chance of a rematch in February - March 1986, while if he ties after 24 games, he keeps the title.

The FIDE Council adopted a strange monetary penalty to try to reduce the large number of draws which ended the 1984-5 series. Each inconclusive game will result in one per cent of the prize fund being given to FIDE's fund for chess in developing countries rather than to the players. This decision is a throwback to the early days of chess clocks when tournament organisers used to impose fines rather than a zero for chessing the time limit. Karpov and Kasparov will be paid in highly taxed roubles rather than in FIDE's official currency Swiss francs, so the penalty will have a real deterrent value. A better method would be to adapt European soccer's "away goals count double" rule and to score wins with the black pieces 1.1 rather than 1.0 points. Such a provision would also counter the growing trend to multiple ties in the Swiss system.

Kasparov's strategy took a winning 3-0 lead by brilliant attacking play in his first event since February, a six-game match against West German No 1 Hubner.

Gary Kasparov (USSR) - Robert Hubner (West Germany) 3-0. Gambit Declined (2nd match game, Hamburg 1985).

1 P-04 N-K3 2 P-Q4 P-K3 3 N-K3 P-K4 4 N-K3 P-K4 5 P-K3 P-K4 6 P-K3 P-K4 7 P-K3 P-K4 8 P-K3 P-K4 9 P-K3 P-K4 10 P-K3 P-K4 11 P-K3 P-K4 12 P-K3 P-K4 13 P-K3 P-K4 14 P-K3 P-K4 15 P-K3 P-K4 16 P-K3 P-K4 17 P-K3 P-K4 18 P-K3 P-K4 19 P-K3 P-K4 20 P-K3 P-K4 21 P-K3 P-K4 22 P-K3 P-K4 23 P-K3 P-K4 24 P-K3 P-K4 25 P-K3 P-K4 26 P-K3 P-K4 27 P-K3 P-K4 28 P-K3 P-K4 29 P-K3 P-K4 30 P-K3 P-K4 31 P-K3 P-K4 32 P-K3 P-K4 33 P-K3 P-K4 34 P-K3 P-K4 35 P-K3 P-K4 36 P-K3 P-K4 37 P-K3 P-K4 38 P-K3 P-K4 39 P-K3 P-K4 40 P-K3 P-K4 41 P-K3 P-K4 42 P-K3 P-K4 43 P-K3 P-K4 44 P-K3 P-K4 45 P-K3 P-K4 46 P-K3 P-K4 47 P-K3 P-K4 48 P-K3 P-K4 49 P-K3 P-K4 50 P-K3 P-K4 51 P-K3 P-K4 52 P-K3 P-K4 53 P-K3 P-K4 54 P-K3 P-K4 55 P-K3 P-K4 56 P-K3 P-K4 57 P-K3 P-K4 58 P-K3 P-K4 59 P-K3 P-K4 60 P-K3 P-K4 61 P-K3 P-K4 62 P-K3 P-K4 63 P-K3 P-K4 64 P-K3 P-K4 65 P-K3 P-K4 66 P-K3 P-K4 67 P-K3 P-K4 68 P-K3 P-K4 69 P-K3 P-K4 70 P-K3 P-K4 71 P-K3 P-K4 72 P-K3 P-K4 73 P-K3 P-K4 74 P-K3 P-K4 75 P-K3 P-K4 76 P-K3 P-K4 77 P-K3 P-K4 78 P-K3 P-K4 79 P-K3 P-K4 80 P-K3 P-K4 81 P-K3 P-K4 82 P-K3 P-K4 83 P-K3 P-K4 84 P-K3 P-K4 85 P-K3 P-K4 86 P-K3 P-K4 87 P-K3 P-K4 88 P-K3 P-K4 89 P-K3 P-K4 90 P-K3 P-K4 91 P-K3 P-K4 92 P-K3 P-K4 93 P-K3 P-K4 94 P-K3 P-K4 95 P-K3 P-K4 96 P-K3 P-K4 97 P-K3 P-K4 98 P-K3 P-K4 99 P-K3 P-K4 100 P-K3 P-K4 101 P-K3 P-K4 102 P-K3 P-K4 103 P-K3 P-K4 104 P-K3 P-K4 105 P-K3 P-K4 106 P-K3 P-K4 107 P-K3 P-K4 108 P-K3 P-K4 109 P-K3 P-K4 110 P-K3 P-K4 111 P-K3 P-K4 112 P-K3 P-K4 113 P-K3 P-K4 114 P-K3 P-K4 115 P-K3 P-K4 116 P-K3 P-K4 117 P-K3 P-K4 118 P-K3 P-K4 119 P-K3 P-K4 120 P-K3 P-K4 121 P-K3 P-K4 122 P-K3 P-K4 123 P-K3 P-K4 124 P-K3 P-K4 125 P-K3 P-K4 126 P-K3 P-K4 127 P-K3 P-K4 128 P-K3 P-K4 129 P-K3 P-K4 130 P-K3 P-K4 131 P-K3 P-K4 132 P-K3 P-K4 133 P-K3 P-K4 134 P-K3 P-K4 135 P-K3 P-K4 136 P-K3 P-K4 137 P-K3 P-K4 138 P-K3 P-K4 139 P-K3 P-K4 140 P-K3 P-K4 141 P-K3 P-K4 142 P-K3 P-K4 143 P-K3 P-K4 144 P-K3 P-K4 145 P-K3 P-K4 146 P-K3 P-K4 147 P-K3 P-K4 148 P-K3 P-K4 149 P-K3 P-K4 150 P-K3 P-K4 151 P-K3 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Alan Rusbridger

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In the great oil price poker game British taxpayers could be the losers



SATURDAY NOTEBOOK

OPEC's decision at the start of the week to bring forward its next ministerial pow-wow has obviously failed to halt the price slide that began to gather momentum at the end of the winter.

But then demand is so weak right now that, even if all the Opec states presently exceeding their quotas were to stop doing so, Saudi Arabia would still need to continue producing at a level well below its entitlement to ensure that the cartel did not flood the market.

But Saudi Arabia, as King

Fahd's ultimatum to the Opec "mini-summit" made clear, is beginning to reach the limits of forbearance. It may be hard to credit, but even the Saudi economy is taking a hammering. Several companies have gone bust. Others are in the process of restructuring their debts. The price of land has tumbled and a number of government projects have been postponed, delayed, or abandoned.

After two big deficits in as many years, the government — worried that it may be plunging through the country's foreign reserves too quickly — has announced that it intends to balance the budget again.

But because of its massive reserves of oil, which are far bigger than those of any other nation, Saudi Arabia has an overriding interest in the industry's long-term stability. It is frankly difficult to believe that King Fahd would carry out his threat to "open the taps" as a way of teaching Saudi Arabia's Opec partners a lesson. But no one can be sure. That is the poker game.

Saudi Arabia's strategy is to capitalise on the trepidation of its fellow-members as a way of getting them to assume more of the burden of holding up oil prices. But the point is fast approaching at which, even if they are convinced of the justice and logic of reducing their quotas, the oil ministers of the other states will find it impossible to convince the government to which they belong that they must do so.

To cut output at a time when the price is already dropping would be economically suicidal for some countries and politically suicidal for their rulers. Nor are most Opec states the sort of places where changes of government take place with the help of a removal van.

As they fight to defend their quotas at the next full meeting of the cartel at the end of this month, the ministers assembled at the Geneva Intercontinental could well feel that they are fighting for their lives in more senses than just the metaphorical one. It is certain to be one of the hardest-fought Opec plenaries, and nobody ought to bet on a successful conclusion.

All of this is bad news for the British Government — most obviously because falling oil prices devalue the Treasury's take from the North Sea, thus narrowing the Cabinet's room for manoeuvre, especially insofar as tax cuts are concerned.

Of course, the other way to finance lower taxes is to sell off assets. The problem is that the next such sale will depend heavily for its success on the price of oil.

The next disposal, of course, is the government's last remaining direct stake in Britain's North Sea oil resources, held through its final 48.8 per cent stake in Britoil. This is to be sold, almost certainly in mid-July, before Parliament breaks up for the summer recess.

The total proceeds of the Britoil disposal are likely to be little more than £500 million, a fraction of the £4 billion realised by last year's privatisation of 51 per cent of British Telecom, yet the details of the sale could cause considerable problems and embarrassment.

For one thing, Britoil is very much a large oil holding company, unlike any

other on the stock market. It is perceived in this light, and almost certainly will be valued in this light, and when the world price of oil is in doubt, the price of Britoil shares must be equally vulnerable.

The vendors of Britoil, the government, must be very conscious of this. When the first tranche of shares in the company was offered to the public in 1982, it coincided with a sudden collapse in oil prices.

The consequence was that on one level at least, the Britoil privatisation was a disaster. It was offered for sale at a minimum tender price of 215p, and 75 per cent of the issue was left in the hands of the underwriting institutions.

On another level, the government, accustomed to the share value of other public sector assets bounding well above the selling price immediately, hailed it as a triumph, claiming that it has obviously obtained more than the shares were truly worth.

In terms of the first Britoil sale, this may be acceptable logic. As far as selling the final chunk of the

company is concerned, it is an appalling piece of reasoning.

For one thing, the fact that the City institutions were left with as much of the primary issue means that their views of the company are inevitably jaundiced. They view Britoil as a stock holding company whose worth is dominated by international factors well beyond its management control.

This is in one sense unfortunate, as Britoil, against the background of its status as a new, and slightly artificially structured company, is beginning to prove itself competent, and indeed ably managed.

Yet, because the rumour of the company is to be sold off so soon after the fiasco of the first sale, this managerial progress will count for little, if anything, when Britoil is valued.

Instead, the same City institutions who were left with excess shares the first time round will be reluctant, on this occasion, either to subscribe for the new share issue at anything other than the most favourable terms, or indeed to underwrite the

issue at anything other than a discount pricing level.

After all, Britoil shares today stand in the stock market at 220p, only 5p a share more than the price at which they were initially floated. Over the same period, general stock market values have escalated by some 35 per cent.

One certain consequence will also be a more than generous commission for those City institutions who agree in advance to buy new Britoil shares, on top of the relatively cheap price at which they are allowed to buy the shares.

To compensate for this institutional antagonism, the government, and its advisers, could tread the B.P. path and endeavour to market Britoil to the public at large. "Invest in Britain's North Sea energy future," they could appeal.

However, this is an improbable course. If Britoil was sold to the unsophisticated, or non-professional, investor, and suffered the same share price slump as it did the first time round, the government would suddenly find itself hamstringing when it

tried to do large, and more comprehensive, public sector assets such as British Gas, to the person in the street.

But if the Government cannot risk this eventually, equally it cannot risk the professional investors being left holding unwanted, and over-priced share packages in Britoil at a time when its privatisation programme is being accelerated.

So Britoil will be, in more senses than one, conservatively priced. It is being sold when sentiment over world oil prices is negative.

It is being sold when the company's management potential has not yet been appreciated. And it is being sold when resentment over the last Britoil share sale has not had time to fade.

Yet again, the doctrine of privatisation seems destined to triumph over basic commercial wisdom, and the ultimate loser will be the taxpayer who can expect to witness one of the UK's most precious assets sold out of season at an unrealistic price.

John Hooper and David Simpson

Go-between to explore credit possibilities

Bank of England joins Sinclair rescue mission

By Maggie Brown

The Bank of England has stepped in to oversee the efforts now being made to salvage Sir Clive Sinclair's home computer firm, Sinclair Research.

The company, which pioneered Britain's home computer sales boom, is regarded as far too visible and too important a symbol of the country's new industries to be allowed to fail or be rushed into receivership.

Informed sources also say that the Prime Minister, whose government knighted Sir Clive for his services to British technology two years ago, is taking a close interest in the company's fate, as are a number of other important bodies, including the Department of Trade and Industry.

Apart from its computer and consumer product side, the company's meta research and development laboratory is viewed as a national source of "intellectual capital, worth preserving." It is also well known overseas.

The Bank's involvement is through its industrial finance division, which is providing a chairman for discussions between the hard-pressed firm, which owes £17 million, and its bankers, Barclays and Citibank.

The aim is to explore ways of continuing the lines of bank credit beyond purely commercial



Sir Clive Sinclair

limits, to stand in the last resort between the company and receivership, and to see whether the loans can be restructured, rather than repaid, or converted into equity, so that the company can continue trading.

It now appears that the Bank first got involved shortly after Sinclair's main bankers, Barclays, moved in a team of investigating accountants more than five weeks ago.

Barclays was also a party at a meeting of the main Sinclair creditors yesterday, which according to one of them appears to have agreed to continue "a level of support" for Sinclair Research. The main

parties were Thorn EMI, AB Electrolux, Timex, who all assembled Sinclair products for him, but have agreed to extend two months of credit — and Citibank.

The meeting was prompted by the action of Timex, which angered the others by selling its stock of Sinclair computers independently through a cut-price distributor, in order to recover some money.

Sinclair's main financial advisers, N.M. Rothschild, insist that no progress on negotiations with a possible "big brother" industrial partner can take place until the auditors, Deloitte, Haskins and Sells, actually sign off the last year's accounts for the 12 months to March 31.

These were due this past week, but have not yet arrived. Sir Clive Sinclair said yesterday that he had made no approach to the Department of Trade and Industry, and that there had been little development in his bid to find up to £15 million cash for the company during the past few days.

Sinclair Research's current problems, as with Acorn's, stem from a sharp downturn in home computer sales, after a near four-year boom which has left the company with 18 of every 100 British homes. Sinclair is now trying to run down its £30 million of unsold stock, and is holding its 40 per cent UK market share.

Names claim fraud evidence

By Andrew Cornelius

NAMES on the troubled PCW syndicate at Lloyd's, which face losses of £130 million, claim to have evidence which points to "a long-term and all-embracing fraud" and with the syndicate going back to the early 1970s.

The latest development in the row over the losses came after a preliminary report on the PCW syndicate's accounts, dated 1984, and 157, by accountants Price Waterhouse.

The PCW action committee of 350 names who face individual losses of up to £500,000 each, said that the Price Waterhouse investigation had cast doubt over all underwriting accounts and results published since the early 1970s.

Their findings are that the syndicate accounts were manipulated in such a way as to conceal serious overwriting; that the names were not told that the syndicates were under-reserved by £25 million when a rescue offer was made to them last year; and that up to £10 million of funds which could have been recovered have not been claimed or credited to the syndicate's accounts.

The names said that they were not contesting the principle of unlimited liability. "The names do, however, object to applying that principle in the case of losses arising from fraud or professional negligence," the committee said.

Mr Keith Whitten, chairman of the committee, said that he would be seeking a meeting with Mr Robert Alexander QC to discuss the possibility of taking legal action in the wake of the Price Waterhouse report. A preliminary meeting has also been held with Sir Ian Morrow, who was this week appointed as chairman of the new formed agency to manage the troubled former PCW syndicate.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fraser ups Debenhams stake

HOUSE of Fraser, owned by the Egyptian Al Fayed brothers, has taken its stake in the beleaguered Debenhams department store chain above the 5 per cent disclosure threshold. The group now owns 5.17 per cent, it confirmed yesterday.

Meanwhile, Debenhams' chairman, Mr Bob Thornton, gave more reasons for rejecting the bid offer by Burton in a letter to shareholders which said that the artist's sketch of the "galleria concept" in Burton's offer document "lacked long on concepts and short on facts".

IMPERIAL Group shares jumped 8p to 106p yesterday on hopes that the group may soon clinch the sale of its US restaurants chain Howard Johnson. The American hotels and foods group, which said it had been discussing a possible acquisition for weeks but nothing had been resolved.

TWA directors met yesterday to discuss a rival bid for the company by Resorts International, which owns casinos and hotels in Atlantic City and the Bahamas. Resorts was reportedly offering about \$23 a share, which if accepted would put the value of TWA, the fifth largest US carrier, at close to \$300 million. TWA put itself up to the highest bidder to avoid the clutches of New York corporate raider, Mr Carl Icahn. His offer is worth \$800 million at \$18 per share.

CHETWYND STREETS, the privately-owned advertising and public relations group, has turned down an estimated £10 million takeover offer from Saatchi & Saatchi, the UK's biggest advertising agency. Streets made pre-tax profits of £282,000 last year on turnover of £33 million and has indicated that it plans to seek a stock market listing.

New slide in oil prices

By John Hooper

Energy Correspondent

Oil prices slipped again yesterday. According to some assessments, the price of Brent — the world's most extensively traded crude — slipped below \$25.00 for delivery next month.

The slide began again after a report from Singapore which quoted Japanese traders as saying that Abu Dhabi had cut its official price by 55 cents a barrel, and extended the payment period to 30 days. A spokesman of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company later denied the report, saying that it would not alter its prices without the approval of Opec.

Indeed, it is most unlikely that Abu Dhabi would risk the ire of other members of the cartel by such a move. It is by no means improbable, however, that Opec's most senior subcommittee to convene again before the full Opec conference scheduled for June 30.

The council met at the Saudi mountain resort of Taif only five days ago. It took a dramatic turn when King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, who rarely intervenes personally in Opec's affairs, sent a message implying that unless the other states were prepared to stick to the organisation's agreements on price and output, Saudi Arabia would boost its production and force the price down even further.

Meanwhile, Opec's attempts to steady the market took on an increasingly implausible air. Dr Subroto, the organisation's president, assured reporters that he had no plans to cut prices, even though Opec's most powerful figure, Sheikh Yamani, has already openly suggested that they should.

At the cartel's headquarters in Vienna, Professor Tam David-West said that the era of cheap oil would never return and that consumers

waiting for a fall were "wasting their time." But he added that he expected the five-member ministerial executive council, Opec's most senior subcommittee, to convene again before the full Opec conference scheduled for June 30.

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Argentina loan accord near

From Alex Brummer

In Washington

The International Monetary Fund was last night "very close" to reaching a \$1.5 billion loan accord with Argentina. US Treasury officials said the agreement would trigger a package of some \$450 million in bridging loans which it was putting together with other countries.

Argentina's President, Raoul Alfonsin, said in Buenos Aires that the deal would bridge the gap between the IMF and the US and some European and Latin American nations would participate in a bridging loan to his country. He said: "negotiations ended in a satisfactory manner." A stringent new austerity programme has been approved by the Argentine president.

A rescue for Argentina this weekend was said by the US Treasury to be urgent before American bank regulators meet next week to assess the status of the nation's commercial bank loans. If Buenos Aires remains seriously behind with its interest payments then the regulators would be forced to downgrade loans to Argentina, requiring them to write some of them down.

Argentina has some \$45 billion of foreign debts, of which about \$25 billion is owed to commercial banks. It is currently estimated that Argentina is about \$1.3 billion behind in its bank interest payments.

which have precipitated the latest negotiating cliff-hanger in Washington.

Having failed to keep within IMF targets last time around, Argentina is being asked this time to take new steps to reduce its inflation rate and to cut back the level of its domestic budget. These steps are intended to lower its requirements for foreign borrowing.

An agreement with the IMF will release three tranches of money: \$1.5 billion from the IMF, \$450 million in bridging loans, and \$4.2 billion in new money agreed by the commercial banks in December, but held up for six months because of the failure of the Alfonsin government to meet the IMF conditions.

London ports back in profit

By David Simpson

Business Correspondent

The Port of London Authority returned to profit last year despite the effects of the two national docks strikes, largely as a result of further reductions in its labour costs.

After a net deficit of £1.4 million in 1983, the PLA earned £817,000 last year, although its total revenues fell by almost £2 million.

The PLA work force dropped by 356 employees to 3,245, about half of whom are registered dock workers. The PLA believes it is still carrying 300 staff too many, however, most of whom are registered dock workers, and the labour force is expected to fall sharply again this year.

The decline in revenue occurred against a rising level of cargo passing through the port. This last year, by 1.7 million tonnes to 43.2 million tonnes, largely through the greater number of container vessels calling at Tilbury.

This year the PLA expects to suffer a \$4 million fall in revenues as the direct result of the government's decision to force a cut in port rates, a break-even position is being forecast.

At present, the PLA is waiting for a government response to its recently submitted three-year corporate plan, which includes proposals for most of its debt of some £104 million to be written off.

This would allow the PLA, it claims, to borrow in the commercial marketplace to fund its operations, an option not currently available because of its borrowing limits. At present, the port authority is reduced to financing its capital spending through sales of land, which would otherwise be developed to boost income.

Shock waves from the affair hit the Hang Seng Index which fell by 88.95 points, the largest amount in a day for more than three years to close at 1,542.55, with losses across the board. But analysts expect the market to rebound. All 43 of OTB's local branches were closed, with automatic teller machines sealed and police guards.

Government examiners had been conducting "an intensive audit" of OTB for the past two months but long before there were signs that all was not well. Last November OTB sold its major holdings in Hong Kong Chinese Bank and last month it agreed to the sale of its stake in Hong Kong's Industrial and Commercial Bank.

OTB major shareholders are overseas Chinese from Singapore and Malaysia. Only this week did it become clear to the government that HK\$7.5 billion belonged to some 100,000 depositors had been lost. The only indication of where the money has gone was offered by the Banking Commissioner, Robert Fell, who said the main part of the money involved large loans beginning in 1982 to local businessmen named Simon Ip.

Until April, Mr Ip was Honorary Consul in Hong Kong of the Dominican Republic. The affair means just 20 months after the government was obliged to bail out another insolvent bank, the Hang Lung. One leading business commentator said: "It makes the government look rather ridiculous."

Hong Kong is in the middle of re-writing its banking laws, and the OTB episode will strengthen the hand of those pressing for tighter controls.

The recent drop in American interest rates has helped to ease the US Labour Department reported that unemployment remained at 7.3 per cent of the work force last month despite the apparent slowdown in manufacturing industry.

There has been wide speculation that an increase in the jobless rate, showing a further weakening of the economy, would encourage the Federal Reserve, the US central bank, to take further steps to ease interest rates. Some analysts had gone as far as to predict a cut in the Fed discount rate from 7.5 per cent to 7 per cent.

Following the release of the jobless data, bond prices dropped sharply on the New York money market.

Philips unions try to save Halifax factory

By Maggie Brown

Money Editor

Unions at the Philips washing machine factory in Halifax are launching a campaign to save the 15-year-old plant from closure, preserving the 610 jobs at stake.

They have prepared a detailed 50-page briefing document for the interested parties, showing the plant's profitability and competitive record. If Philips, the Dutch multinational, is not persuaded to change its mind, then the hope is that a buyer can be found, said Mr Tony Mahon, a senior shop steward.

The senior UK management team of Philips is visiting the plant next Friday to discuss the decision to withdraw from the Philips brand name would be removed, so the buyer would already need to be engaged in the home laundry field.

that the plant, though too small for Philips, is profitable, contributing £16,000 last year and £250,000 profit in the opening quarter of this year. It says the work force is more efficient than the Italian one, requiring only 1.51 man-hours to make a washing machine, compared with 2.55 hours in Naples, and has been almost strike-free.

Costs in Halifax have risen by 22.7 per cent over the past four years, compared with 73 per cent in Naples.

Philips, which has a 6 per cent share of the UK washing machine market, is prepared to sell the plant. Several interested buyers, including a Japanese firm, have already looked at it over. One problem is that the Philips brand name would be removed, so the buyer would already need to be engaged in the home laundry field.

US jobless steady

From Alex Brummer

In Washington

The recent drop in American interest rates has helped to ease the US Labour Department reported that unemployment remained at 7.3 per cent of the work force last month despite the apparent slowdown in manufacturing industry.

There has been wide speculation that an increase in the jobless rate, showing a further weakening of the economy, would encourage the Federal Reserve, the US central bank, to take further steps to ease interest rates. Some analysts had gone as far as to predict a cut in the Fed discount rate from 7.5 per cent to 7 per cent.

Following the release of the jobless data, bond prices dropped sharply on the New York money market.

English China Clays calls for £86 million

By Robin Stoddart

English China Clays is raising £86 million from shareholders to finance the further expansion of its international mineral operations. Demand from the paper industry and other main customers remained strong in the half year to March 31, but the hard weather increased costs and reduced the profits of the enlarged construction materials division.

The one-for-four rights offer at 220p a share continues the record flow of new issues on the stock market. The price was set closer to the previous market valuation of the shares than usual, but the increase in the interim dividend to 4p and

forecast of at least a similar 11 per cent rise to 6.7p net a share in the final payment, means that the return on the new subscription is relatively high at 7 per cent. Nevertheless, the shares fell 10p to 235p after the announcement.

Results for the half year, which only accounts for around 35 per cent of the annual total — probably less this year — because of the seasonal factors show pre-tax profit £18.7 million higher at £24.1 million. Turnover rose much faster to £304 million from £265 million, boosted by the first three months' contribution from the £51 million Bradley stone and householding acquisition and the previous Charcon concrete

purchase. Because of the disruption caused by the hard winter, the quarry and building materials division's profit was, however, depressed by a fifth to £5.8 million. Rationalisation at Bradley is nearly complete.

The main clay operations in Cornwall, the United States and elsewhere put up another strong performance, lifting profit by over a fifth to £24.2 million. A 5 per cent price rise only applied for three months. Demand for coated paper, which uses higher-margin clay, was good thanks to rising volume in advertising publications. Although the paper industry is due for a downturn in 1986, other customers, including paint and

plastics manufacturers, are consuming more kaolin and the recovery in ball clay sales to the ceramics industry is pronounced. A £3 million new processing plant is under construction at Stoke-on-Trent.

Interest and overhead charges were nearly £2.9 million higher at £7.7 million and the rights issue will initially have debt. In addition, a \$100 million borrowing facility has been arranged in New York, in a move underlining the group's high credit rating.

The chairman, Sir Alan Dalton, says that the second half-year has started well in all sectors. Housing, DIY, concrete, asphalt and coal recovery sales are all picking up now.

NEW Now you can ENJOY making money

Here are the days when investment meant handing over your money to a faceless institution. Now, you can enjoy the excitement and rewards of owning a personal portfolio of shares — but without any of the time-consuming problems that normally go with it. Through the new Stockholder Syndicate, your investments will be managed on a full-time basis by a team of experienced professionals. Their objective: aggressive growth for your money... and this should be your objective too...

But, you will still be very much involved:

- * You will know exactly what investments have been bought and sold on your behalf.
- * You will be encouraged to telephone the managers to discuss any opportunities you identify.
- * You will be invited to meet the managers — and your fellow investors — at regular seminars.

The Stockholder Syndicate is for people with between £1,000 and £10,000 to invest. People who want to share in the fun of making money.

For further details, please phone Peter Kent on 01-933 5566 (during normal business hours). Or write to him at Lancashire & Yorkshire Investment Management Limited, 73 Wimpole Street, London W1M 7DD.

But please act now. The Syndicate will be closed as soon as £2.5 million has been received — and all applications will be treated strictly on a first come, first served basis.

Lancashire & Yorkshire

There's money to be made with us.



Sir Alan Dalton

مكتبات الأصل



Application will be made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the Ordinary share capital of Abbey Life Group plc to be admitted to the Official List.

Abbey Life Group plc

(registered in England no. 966096 under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1981)

Offer for Sale by S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

of 135,000,000 Ordinary shares of 5p each at 180p per share, payable in full on application

The Ordinary shares now offered for sale rank in full for all dividends hereafter declared or paid on the Ordinary share capital of Abbey Life Group plc.
The Offer for Sale is made by S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. on behalf of Abbey International Corporation, a US subsidiary of ITT Corporation.

The information set out in this advertisement has been extracted from, and should be read in conjunction with, the Offer for Sale document which contains the listing particulars.

You are advised not to complete and lodge an Application Form until you have read the Offer for Sale document which may be obtained from or inspected at:

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.
33 King William Street,
London EC4R 9AS

Rowe & Pitman
1 Finsbury Avenue,
London EC2M 2PA

Midland Bank plc
Poultry & Princes Street,
London EC2P 2BX
and
Stock Exchange
Services Department,
Mariner House,
Peppys Street,
London EC3N 4DA
Telephone 01-606 9911

and at the following branches of Midland Bank plc

Manchester
100 King Street,
Manchester M60 2HD

Bristol
49 Corn Street,
Bristol BS99 7PP

Birmingham
130 New Street,
Birmingham B2 4JU

and at the following branches of Clydesdale Bank PLC

Edinburgh
29 George Street,
Edinburgh EH2 2YN

Glasgow
30 St. Vincent Place,
Glasgow G1 2HL

and at the head office of Abbey Life
Abbey Life Group plc
Abbey Life House,
80 Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL

The full text of the Offer for Sale also appears in the Financial Times, the Daily Telegraph and The Times of Friday, 7 June 1985.

Key Information

Following the Offer for Sale, Abbey Life Group plc ("Abbey Life") will have 280,000,000 Ordinary shares of 5p each in issue, all of which will be fully paid. The Offer for Sale is of 48.2 per cent. of the share capital of Abbey Life. Following the Offer for Sale, ITT Corporation will hold the remaining 51.8 per cent.

Business

Abbey Life and its subsidiaries write life insurance and individual pensions business principally in the UK and also in the Republic of Ireland and the Federal Republic of Germany. Most of the group's business is unit-linked. The group also manages and markets authorised unit trusts in the UK. Abbey Life Assurance Company Limited, the group's principal operating subsidiary, is among the ten largest UK life offices as measured by new premiums in 1984. The company markets a wide range of life insurance and individual pensions policies through its 2,500 strong direct sales force and through over 1,000 brokers.

Financial record

		Year ended 31 December				
	Notes	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Initial commissions	(1)	16.0	21.0	32.9	39.6	45.5
New premiums	(2)	94.5	171.9	158.7	170.3	223.9
Premium income	(3)	167.2	271.9	293.2	315.3	376.1
Annual surplus	(4)	8.4	10.0	15.3	20.7	30.7
Annual surplus in 1984 after adjusting for the payment of a notional dividend	(5)					28.0

Notes:—
(1) As explained in the section of the Offer for Sale document headed "Guide to technical terms used in this document", initial commissions reflect the commission entitlements of sales associates and brokers in respect of new business and are stated on the basis used by the group for management reporting.
(2) As explained in the section of the Offer for Sale document headed "Guide to technical terms used in this document", new premiums are stated on an annualised basis.

(3) Premium income is as set out in the section of the Offer for Sale document headed "Reporting Accountants' report" and comprises the total premium income (net of reinsurance) received in respect of each year by the life insurance companies in the Abbey Life group.
(4) Annual surplus comprises the aggregate annual actuarial surplus of Abbey Life Assurance Company Limited and its UK life insurance subsidiaries, as shown in the section of the Offer for Sale document headed "Reporting Accountants' report", together with the consolidated after tax results of the non-insurance companies in the Abbey Life group.
(5) No dividends have been paid by Abbey Life in date. The adjusted annual surplus for the year ended 31 December 1984 is an approximation reflecting the tax effect (explained in the section of the Offer for Sale document headed "Financial information") which would have resulted from the payment of a notional dividend by Abbey Life of 5.7p net per Ordinary share in respect of that year. The notional dividend figure for 1984 has been used only for illustrative purposes.

Forecast annual surplus for 1985

The Directors of Abbey Life forecast that, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances and on the basis and assumptions set out in the section of the Offer for Sale document headed "Forecast annual surplus for 1985—basis, assumptions and letters", the group's annual surplus for the year ending 31 December 1985 will be approximately £33 million.

Forecast dividend for 1985

In the absence of unforeseen circumstances, the Directors of Abbey Life would expect to recommend total dividends of 6.6p net per Ordinary share in respect of the year ending 31 December 1985.

Offer for Sale statistics

Offer for Sale price per Ordinary share	180p
Market capitalisation at the Offer for Sale price	£504 million
Forecast annual surplus for 1985 per Ordinary share	11.8p
Market capitalisation at the Offer for Sale price as a multiple of forecast annual surplus for 1985	15.3 times
Prospective gross dividend yield at the Offer for Sale price	5.24 per cent.

Listing and dealing arrangements

The Application List will open at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 12 June 1985 and may be closed at any time thereafter. The basis on which applications have been accepted will be announced as soon as possible after the Application List closes. It is expected that Letters of Acceptance will be posted to successful applicants on Tuesday, 18 June 1985 and that dealings in the Ordinary shares will commence on Wednesday, 19 June 1985.

The Ordinary shares now being offered for sale will be registered, free of stamp duty and registration fees, in the name(s) of purchaser(s) or persons in whose favour Letters of Acceptance are duly remitted provided that, in cases of remittance, Letters of Acceptance (duly completed in accordance with the instructions contained therein) are lodged for registration by 5 p.m. on Friday, 2 August 1985. Share certificates will be despatched not later than 30 August 1985.

Terms and conditions of application

- The acceptance of applications will be conditional on the Ordinary share capital of Abbey Life Group plc ("Abbey Life") being admitted to the Official List of The Stock Exchange not later than 21 June 1985. Money collected in respect of applications will be returned without interest if such condition is not satisfied and, in the meantime, will be retained by Midland Bank plc in a separate account. If any application is not accepted, or is accepted for fewer Ordinary shares of 5p each in Abbey Life ("Ordinary shares") than the number applied for, the application moneys or the balance of the amount paid on application (as the case may be) will be returned by cheque through the post, in all cases without interest and at the risk of the applicant(s) concerned.
- The right is reserved to present cheques and bankers' drafts for payment on receipt by Midland Bank plc and to retain Letters of Acceptance and surplus application moneys pending clearance of all applicants' cheques.
- By completing and delivering an Application Form, you (as the applicant(s))—
(i) offer to purchase from Abbey International Corporation ("AIC") the number of Ordinary shares specified in your Application Form (or such smaller number for which the application is accepted) on the terms of and subject to the conditions set out herein and in the Offer for Sale document and subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of Abbey Life;
(ii) authorise Midland Bank plc to send a Letter of Acceptance for the number of Ordinary shares for which your application is accepted and/or a crossed cheque for any money returnable by post, at the risk of the person(s) entitled thereto, to your address (or that of the first named applicant) as set out in your Application Form and to procure that your name (together with the name(s) of any other joint applicant(s)) be placed on the Register of Members of Abbey Life in respect of such Ordinary shares the entitlement to which has not been effectively renounced;
- agree that, in consideration of AIC agreeing that it will not, prior to 22 June 1985, sell any of the Ordinary shares the subject of the Offer for Sale to any person other than by means of the procedures referred to in the Offer for Sale document, your application cannot be revoked until after 21 June 1985 and that this paragraph shall constitute a collateral contract between you and AIC which will become binding upon despatch by post to or, in respect of applications delivered by hand receipt by, Midland Bank plc of your application;
- agree that due completion and delivery of an Application Form shall constitute a warranty that your remittance will be honoured on first presentation;
- agree that any Letter of Acceptance and any moneys returnable may be retained by Midland Bank plc pending clearance of your remittance;
- agree that all applications, acceptances of applications and contracts resulting therefrom under the Offer for Sale shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law;
- warrant that, if you sign an Application Form on behalf of somebody else, you have due authority to do so;
- confirm that, in making your application, you are not relying on any information or representation in relation to Abbey Life or its subsidiaries other than such as may be contained in the Offer for Sale document and you accordingly agree that no person responsible solely or jointly for the Offer for Sale document or any part thereof shall have any liability for any such other information or representations; and
- agree that, in respect of those Ordinary shares for which your application has been accepted and is not rejected, notification to The Stock Exchange of the basis of allocation shall constitute acceptance of your application on that basis.

4. The basis of allocation will be determined by S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. in consultation with Abbey Life and AIC in their absolute discretion. The right is reserved to reject in whole or in part, or to scale down, any application and, in particular, multiple or suspected multiple applications.

5. Up to 10 per cent. of the Ordinary shares being offered for sale are reserved in the first instance for applications at the Offer for Sale price from employees, former employees and sales associates of Abbey Life and its subsidiaries. Such applications must be made on the Preferential Application Forms which are being made available to such persons.

6. No person receiving a copy of this Application Form in any territory other than the UK may treat the same as constituting an invitation or offer to him, nor should he in any event use such form, unless in the relevant territory such an invitation or offer could lawfully be made to him or such form could lawfully be used without contravention of any registration or other legal requirements. It is the responsibility of any person outside the UK wishing to make an application thereunder to satisfy himself as to observance of the laws of any relevant territory, including obtaining any governmental or other consents which may be required and observing any other formalities in such territory.

Procedure for application

The following notes should be read in conjunction with the Application Form.

- Insert in Box 1 (in figures) the number of Ordinary shares for which you are applying. Applications must be for a minimum of 200 Ordinary shares or in one of the following multiples:
— for more than 200 shares, but not more than 2,000 shares, in a multiple of 100 shares
— for more than 2,000 shares, but not more than 5,000 shares in a multiple of 200 shares
— for more than 5,000 shares, but not more than 20,000 shares, in a multiple of 500 shares
— for more than 20,000 shares, but not more than 50,000 shares, in a multiple of 1,000 shares
— for more than 50,000 shares, in a multiple of 10,000 shares.

- Put in Box 2 (in figures) the amount of your payment.

- Sign and date the Application Form in Box 3. The Application Form may be signed by someone else on your behalf (and/or on behalf of any joint applicant(s)) if duly authorised to do so, but the power(s) of attorney must be enclosed for inspection. A corporation should sign under the hand of a duly authorised official whose representative capacity must be stated.

- Put your full name and address in BLOCK CAPITALS in Box 4.

- You must pin to this completed Application Form a separate cheque or bankers' draft for the full amount payable. Your cheque or bankers' draft must be made payable to "Midland Bank plc" for the amount payable on application and should be crossed "Not Negotiable". No receipt will be issued for this payment which must be solely for this application.

Your cheque or bankers' draft must be drawn in sterling on an account at a branch (which must be in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man) of a bank which is either a member of the London or Scottish Clearing Houses or which has arranged for its cheques and bankers' drafts to be presented for payment through the clearing facilities provided for the members of those Clearing Houses (and must bear the appropriate sorting code number in the top right hand corner).

Applications may be accompanied by a cheque drawn by someone other than the applicant(s), but any moneys to be returned will be sent by crossed cheque in favour of the person(s) named in Box 4.

- You may apply jointly with other persons. If you do so you must then arrange for the Application Form to be completed by or on behalf of each joint applicant (up to a maximum of three persons, other than the first applicant). Their full names and addresses should be put in BLOCK CAPITALS in Box 6.

- Box 7 must be signed by or on behalf of each joint applicant (other than the first applicant who should sign in Box 3 and complete Box 4).

If any individual is signing on behalf of any joint applicant(s), the power(s) of attorney must be enclosed for inspection.

- You must send the completed Application Form together with the cheque or bankers' draft by post, or deliver it by hand, to Midland Bank plc, Stock Exchange Services Dept., Mariner House, Peppys Street, London EC3N 4DA so as to be received not later than 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 12 June 1985. If you post your Application Form, you are recommended to use first class post and allow at least two days for delivery.

Application Form Abbey Life Group plc

I/We offer to purchase from Abbey International Corporation

Ordinary shares of 5p each

1 in Abbey Life Group plc at the Offer for Sale price of 180p per Ordinary share payable in full on application on the terms and subject to the conditions set out herein and in the Offer for Sale document dated 5 June 1985

and I/we attach a cheque or bankers' draft for the amount payable, namely

£

(180p multiplied by the number of Ordinary shares in Box 1)

Dated 1985 Signature

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Mr., Mrs., Miss or title Forename(s) in full

Surname

Address in full

Postcode

Pin here your cheque/bankers' draft for the amount in Box 2

Fill in this section only when there is more than one applicant. The first or sole applicant should sign in Box 3 and complete Box 4. Insert below only the names and addresses of the second and subsequent applicants, each of whose signatures is required in Box 7.

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

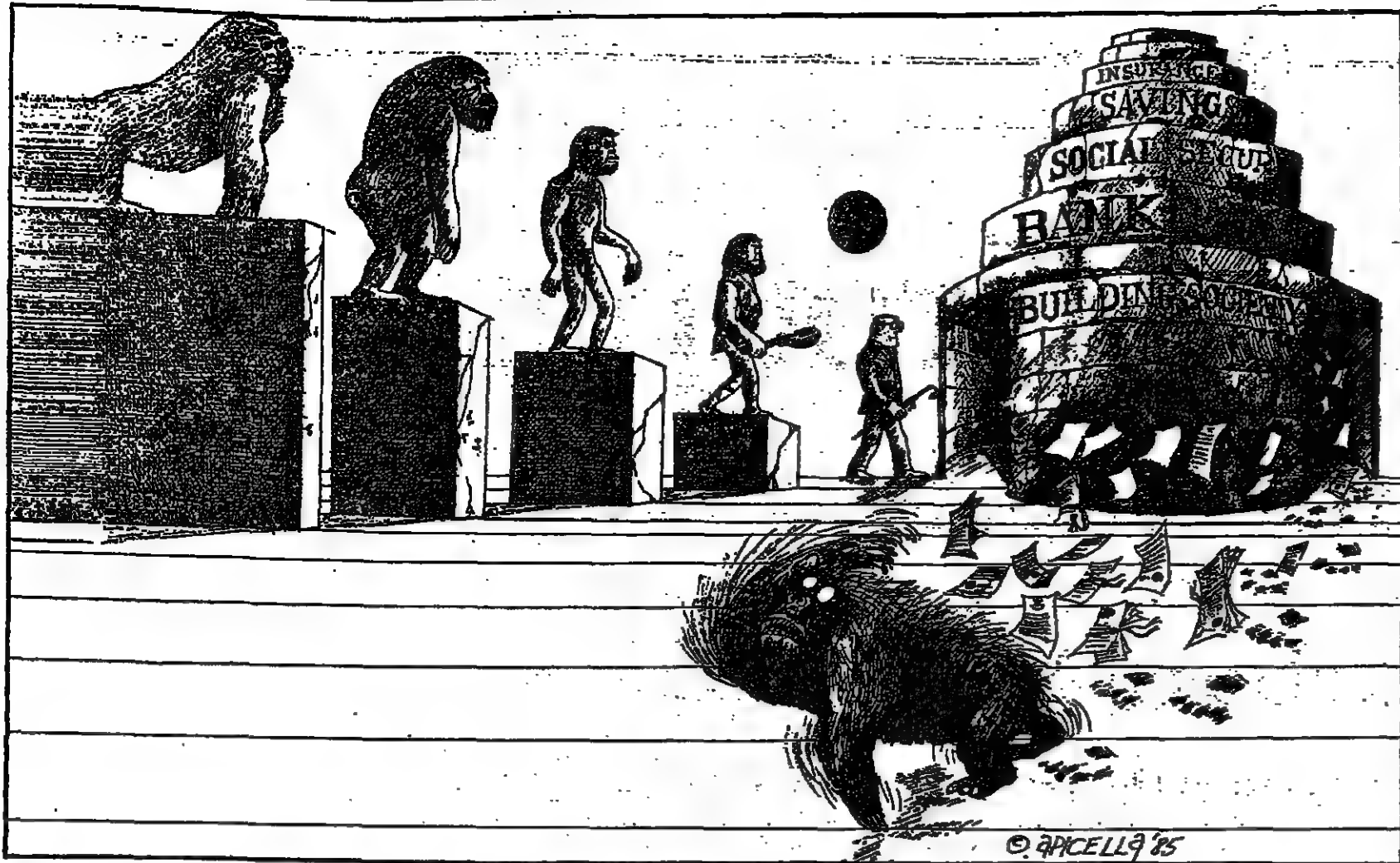
Mr., Mrs., Miss or title	Forename(s)	Mr., Mrs., Miss or title	Forename(s)	Mr., Mrs., Miss or title	Forename(s)
Surname	Surname	Surname	Surname	Surname	Surname
Address	Address	Address	Address	Address	Address
Postcode	Postcode	Postcode	Postcode	Postcode	Postcode

Signature Signature Signature

The Application List will open at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 12 June 1985 and may be closed at any time thereafter. The completed Application Form together with a cheque or bankers' draft for the amount payable should be posted, or delivered by hand, to Midland Bank plc, Stock Exchange Services Dept., Mariner House, Peppys Street, London EC3N 4DA so as to be received not later than that time. Any person signing this Form under a power of attorney must enclose that power of attorney for inspection.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

1. Application No.
2. Shares allocated
3. Amount received
4. Amount payable
5. Amount returned
6. Cheque No.
7. Signatures



Mr Fowler's brave new world

This week's Green Paper on the reform of social security is strong on ideology but a bit short on details of hard cash. Margaret Dibben spells out the main details

HOW did it feel to be waking up in Mr Fowler's brave new world?

The biggest reform of social security for 40 years, the successor to Beveridge's That is in fact giving rather more status to this week's Green Paper on the reform of social security than it merits. The main omission in the Green Paper is any hint of how much money will be paid and at what levels the benefits will be set. Not until these details are revealed can we properly judge the value of the new welfare state.

Mr Fowler's aims were threefold: to make sure the country can afford the social security commitments of the next 20 years; to simplify the

process; and to remind the population that Conservative policy is to put the onus for providing money for the less fortunate on the individual.

National Insurance contributions. These will continue but the amount we pay will be different. The Government is committed to the idea of "national" as well as private insurance, influenced by the findings that most people regard national insurance contributions as a payment towards future benefits rather than a tax.

If you are contracted out of the state pension scheme, which means that the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme does not apply to you, you pay lower national insurance contributions — in effect you are getting a rebate. This rebate will end and you will be paying higher national insurance contributions — in effect paying more for not getting something you never had.

There looks like being one common contribution rate of 16.5 per cent (both employers and employees) against the current rate of 13.2 per cent (taking the 6.25 per cent rebate away from the current 19.45 per cent joint contribution). The new rates

will be phased in over a three year period. The Government, however, is now planning to coordinate the tax and benefit systems into one.

Timing of benefit increases. As a first step towards this re-alignment, the date on which benefits are increased will move from November, as it is at present, to April when changes in tax, contributions and rates already take place.

This increase will be made for the first time in April, 1987. To bridge the gap between November, 1985 and then, there will be an interim uprating in July, 1986.

Pensions. The largest section of this week's proposals affects pensions. Serps, a very new acronym, is to be phased out and every worker will have to think about organising a personal pension.

According to the new plan, everyone will have his or her own pension through a job as well as the basic state pension. There will be no earnings related element. The minimum contribution to a personal pension will be 4 per cent of earnings, with the employer meeting at least half.

But what of all the money you have already paid into Serps? Mr Fowler has promised that all existing rights will be honoured; you will not lose any of the money you have built up.

Men over 50 and women over 45 in April, 1987, when the changes take place, will not be affected at all. They will still get an earnings related pension (a scheme which does not in any case come fully into effect until 1990).

Similarly, anyone who has already retired, indeed any who is retiring this century, will not be affected by the new scheme.

For people below these cut off points who will not have time to build up much money through a new personal pension, there will be a phasing out. Men between 40 and 45, and women between 35 and 44 when the scheme takes effect, will receive a bonus on top of any occupational pension.

The addition will range from 10 per cent of Serps rights to 75 per cent for older people. Younger people will be expected to make all their own pension provisions over and above the basic state pension.

Family Credit. This is a new benefit which will take the place of Family Income Supplement and will be payable in addition to Child Benefit, which remains untouched. Family Credit, like FIS, is for employed people on low incomes and will be phased in over a three year period.

It will be paid through a wage packet by employers. Another change means that families on Family Credit will no longer be entitled to free school meals or welfare foods; they will receive extra cash instead. And, together with Income Support, housing help and assistance for low income families, will be means tested.

Income Support. This will replace supplementary benefit and eligibility will depend on age and family responsibility. Translated, this means that younger people, those under 25, will get less than at present, but the elderly, the over-60s, will get more.

Extra money, over and above the basic rate, will be paid for each child, the long term sick and disabled, and to single parents.

At present, anyone with more than £3,000 in savings gets no benefit; this figure will be doubled to £6,000 with a sliding-scale reducing benefit for anyone with savings between the new and the old figures.

Capital rate. This will replace the single payments and urgent needs payments. Claimants have previously had essential items paid for by the DHSS. Now, the social security staff will have discretion to make occasional cash payments.

Mortgage repayments. At present, those on supplementary benefit can have the interest element of their mortgage repayments paid by the DHSS. Mr Fowler sees this as a discouragement to return to work and will be talking to the building societies about changing the system.

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David Worsfold on how to set about making an insurance claim

Lost, stolen or smashed

not intend making a claim and, if anyone is injured in a motor accident, it must be reported to the police straight away. In the latter case you will be required to produce your certificate of insurance at the scene of the accident or at another police station within five days.

If you are involved in an accident you should note down as many details of the incident as possible as quickly as possible, and you should obtain the name and address of anyone else involved and of any witnesses. It is important not to forget to note down the make and registration number of the other car(s). All this information will be required on the accident report form that your insurance company will send you when you report the accident.

Of course, you will want your car repaired and, if you believe that the accident was not your fault, you will not want to lose your no claims discount. The advice given by the insurance industry is that you should make a claim under your own policy, if you have comprehensive cover, and that this will not affect your no claims discount if the other party was at fault.

Insurance companies operate what is known as a "knock for knock" agreement under which each insurance company pays for the damage to the car that it insures — provided the cover is comprehensive — without arguing over who is to blame. The theory is that making a claim in such a way will not affect your no claims discount but there have been plenty of stories of people falling foul of this agreement when it turns out that their part in the accident was far from blameless and who have lost their discount.

If you are at all unsure as to who is to blame, or what other party involved in the accident is likely to do, then you should consult your insurance adviser or refrain from making a claim against your own policy until you have clarified the situation with

your own insurance company to your satisfaction.

Where the other driver was at fault you can claim against his insurance for losses not covered by your own policy. It is, however, entirely up to the other person whether he passes the claim on to his insurers or pays out of his own pocket. Similarly, you have the right to make the same decision if someone makes a claim against you.

If you do receive any correspondence from someone else involved in the accident — and you have decided to pass the claim to your insurers — you should send all correspondence on to the insurance company without replying to it, apart from saying that you have passed it on.

Even if you decide to pay the claim out of your own pocket, you should seek advice from your solicitor or one of the motoring organisations before agreeing to anything with another party. People often find themselves agreeing to some apparently minor claim in principle, and then find themselves paying out several hundred pounds at the end of the day. Always be very clear about what you are being asked to admit to and how much you are being asked to pay.

For some people the claim is only the beginning of a long struggle with the insurance company and it would be possible to write a book about the many problems that can be faced. On the other hand, however, might be helpful.

If there is any administrative delay in paying your claim, do not be afraid of putting pressure on the company either direct or through your insurance adviser. If you are doing this you will find it helpful to have copies of any correspondence between yourself and the insurance company.

If the company is disputing your claim for any reason find out what the reason is. If you are prepared to agree a proportion of the claim without any argument and suggest that they pay that sum quickly and without further argument, stressing that you still expect the full amount to be paid at a later date.

Should you be unable to make any progress with the insurance company's branch office or claims department, you should write to the general manager at the head office address given on the policy documents. Before doing this you should check whether the company is a member of one of the independent complaints services — the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau or the Personal Insurance Arbitration Service — information of that should appear on one of your policy documents — and point out to the general manager that you will be forwarding the correspondence to the complaints service if the outcome is not satisfactory.

The Insurance Ombudsman Bureau, 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HH.

Personal Insurance Arbitration Service, Institute of Arbitrators, 72 Cannon Street, London EC4A.

How to have a stake in some of the world's top blue chip companies—for as little as £20 a month

For over 50 years unit trusts have been providing excellent results by investing in some of the world's most well known and respected companies, enabling investors to achieve share ownership with reasonable security under the supervision of experienced, professional fund managers.

Now anyone can invest in shares easily

Unit trusts are widely thought of as an investment opportunity only available to those better off individuals who have a significant lump sum of money to invest.

However, many investors who have no immediate capital, but who want to build up a fund of money over a period of time, are now investing in unit trusts at a rate as modest as £20 per month.

This facility is known as a Monthly Savings Plan and is an extremely flexible form of savings.

Unit Trusts — the effective way of investing

Perpetual unit trusts are based on a worldwide approach to investing in shares and have produced exciting results.



Take the Perpetual Group Growth Fund for example. £20 invested each month over the last 10 years would now be worth a staggering £9,746 which can be contrasted to a Building Society Deposit Account which, over the same period, would be worth only £3,658.

Act now!

The Monthly Savings Plan does not need a capital sum to start it and can accommodate any amount you wish to invest from as little as £20 a month. You can stop when you like and take your money out whenever you wish.

Now everyone can benefit from investing in shares in the world's most successful companies. Send for full details today!

NB: Of course, not all unit trusts invest exclusively in blue-chip shares, and investors should accept that unit values can go down as well as up. Past results are provided as a guide and should not be construed as a guarantee of future success.

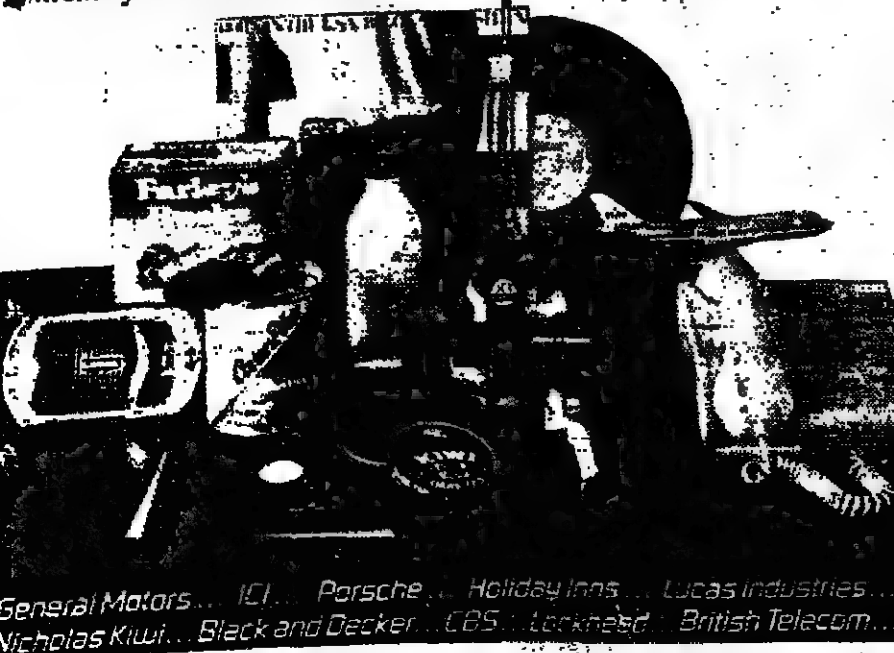
Perpetual Group Monthly Savings Plan

Please send me a copy of the Monthly Savings Plan booklet
To: Perpetual Group,
48 Hart Street, Hestley-on-Thames,
Oxon RG9 2AZ.
Tel: Hestley-on-Thames (0491) 576868.

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THE M&G GROUP

BRITISH pensioners abroad are being robbed. Having chosen to live in the sun in some of the countries which used to form the old British Empire, they find themselves trying to take out pensions which haven't changed since the day they stopped working, or have not kept pace with inflation.

In Australia, some 85,000 British pensioners every November count the cost of leaving these shores. It is then pensions are increased at home, but the people in Australia never get the full amount.

At least, they are better off than the 41,000 pensioners who have emigrated to Canada, often to join children. They get no increase at all. In fact, if they left Britain 15 years ago they are still getting a single pension of £5 a week, while those who joined them ten years ago will be managing on £11.60 a week, compared with the current rate in Britain of £35.80.

It's the same for the 21,000 in New Zealand and the 15,000 in South Africa. The only way they can get an increase in the pension they paid for all their working life through national insurance contributions is to return to Britain.

But the 9,000 pensioners enjoying the Spanish sun, the 7,000 in West Germany, 6,000 in Italy, 5,000 in Jersey and 4,000 in Guernsey all receive a pension which steadily increases because these countries have a reciprocal social security agreement with the British government.

There doesn't seem to be any logic as to which countries have an agreement, which makes retiring to the sun a little tricky.

The carefree beach life in the Bahamas will cost more dearly than that in Bermuda or Jamaica because the last two have an agreement to index link pensions, just as they are at home.

The United States of Amer-



Keeping sunny side up — picture by Kenneth Saunders

Frozen out of a place in the sun

Lindsay Cook on the need to think twice about retiring abroad

ica severed its links with Britain in an acrimonious way, but British pensioners, who currently number 28,000, get a better deal than those over the border in Canada, which is part of the Commonwealth. They get the full increases in their pensions.

And a new convention with America, which comes into effect in 1988, will allow British people who work in the United States to count any contributions to the social security system there towards a pension that they will later draw in Britain, and vice versa. There's a limit of five years contributions which can be transferred in this way.

The Philippines signed a convention in February, which will allow pensioners to get increases after it comes into force later in the year.

But there's little chance of deals being done to give the full increases to those living in the countries to which most Britons choose to emigrate because it would cost too much and the emphasis is on reducing the social security budget.

The countries of the European Community pay pensioners the full increases, as do Spain, Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Gibraltar, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Mauritius,

Turkey, Portugal, Israel, Malta, Jersey, Guernsey, and Sark.

If you are planning to retire abroad, you should tell the social security office in plenty of time and you will then be informed how the pension will be paid.

It may be sent directly to your address abroad every four or 13 weeks, or to a bank or savings account in the United Kingdom, or paid to a person you have nominated as your agent in the United Kingdom.

The Department of Health and Social Security leaflet NI 38 gives details of social security benefits outside the

European Community and is a good starting point because it lists which countries have a reciprocal agreement to pay the full pension and which do not.

There are also leaflets available from the DHSS Overseas Branch, Newcastle upon Tyne NE8 1YX, which give precise information about the social security arrangements for countries which have special agreements.

Britain is unique in offering supplementary benefits so there's no question of pensioners, who are eligible for extra help here getting it if they leave.

Company pension schemes pay out any increases wherever you may roam and what over the inflation rate. While the inflation rate in Britain may help in the decision as to what the annual increase should be for former employees there would be no cut for those in Switzerland, where inflation is low or Brazil where it is very high, said a spokesman for the Company Pensions Information Centre.

But pensioners may find that they get less cash to spend than expected if they choose a destination which has a strong currency which makes the exchange rates unfavourable to sterling. As pensioners get older and less fit many choose to return to Britain to get treatment under the National Health Service. But it is not only the treatment that is important. They may want to see a relative for the last time but not have the money to pay the fares.

An insurance scheme for those emigrating to Australia and New Zealand, leaving their families 12,000 miles behind, is operated by Patrick Leigh as the Emergency Travel Insurance Scheme. Policies are taken out naming the emigrants and the selected relatives they would want to see in the case of a bad accident or one of them being seriously ill.

In such an emergency the policy pays the air fares so that whether parents or children are seriously ill they can be visited.

The premiums start at £30, with one adult insured in Britain or Australia and New Zealand, but the premiums are higher if one or more of the people named on the policy is 70 to 75.

The scheme is underwritten by the Navigators and General Insurance Company (Eagle Star) and the operators can be contacted at 20 Lime Street, London EC3M 7HN.

Unsafe as empty houses

When it comes to house insurance, expatriates can be on tricky ground. Sara Webb points out some of the pitfalls.

AS Ambrose Bierce pointed out in *The Devil's Dictionary*, insurance is an ingenious game of chance in which the player is permitted to enjoy the comfortable conviction that he is beating the man who keeps the table.

The problems arise if the player is hoping to leave his house unoccupied and insure the building and contents while he's out of the country for several months at a stretch, because he may well find he has little chance of joining the game at all.

Anyone planning to move abroad and leave a property unoccupied must notify the insurer of this change in circumstances and check the existing policy carefully.

Insurance companies are marginally more sympathetic towards their existing customers, but there is a tendency either to withdraw certain clauses in the normal policy or to bump up the premiums — in some cases by 200 per cent. New customers will probably be greeted without enthusiasm. After all, from the insurer's point of view, an empty property is an unattractive risk — unit windows and weed-ridden gardens beckon to burglars and squatters, and damage from flooding or storms may well take longer to detect, in which case the extent of the damage is likely to be greater.

The first item to check is whether the insurance for an unoccupied property covers all such normal risks as fire, flooding, malicious and accidental damage, as well as paying architects and surveyors' fees and the cost of alternative accommodation if the owner is left stranded upon return.

General Accident, for example, charge the same premium for occupied and unoccupied houses, but in the latter case, the policy excludes: breakage of fixed glass, double glazing, sanitary fixtures, and destruction, or damage by theft or malice.

leakage of oil; bursting, leaking, or overflow of water unless the water system is turned off.

Other companies keep the premium the same but make the owner pay the first £25 or so of the bills for damage if the house is left unoccupied. Royal Insurance say that if the property of an existing customer is left empty for any length of time, the cover is reduced to fire only, and depending on the circumstances, they would charge an additional rate.

Insurance brokers Alexander and Alexander Ltd of Woking, Surrey, provide a Homesafe policy for expatriates. This is an all-risks policy in which the building rate is 0.15 per cent of the rebuilding cost, with £50 excess if the unoccupied period is less than 60 days. Thereafter, the excess jumps to £100, although the company offers lower rates for larger excess amounts. For an additional £22.50, the policy includes a Home Owners' Legal Protection Scheme which will cover all the legal expenses if squatters (or tenants) refuse to move out.

Most companies stipulate that unoccupied properties are visited and checked weekly by a reliable friend or letting agent, that the water system is completely drained (to avoid the havoc witnessed in parts of the British Isles in which this year, and that electricity and gas are turned off at the mains.

Provided these precautions are met, the Prudential charges the same for occupied and unoccupied properties and does not withdraw any clauses from the policy.

In some cases, the building itself is covered by a building society block policy, so the owner may only need a separate contents policy.

It is assumed that jewellery, paintings, furs, silver, clocks and other valuables will either be locked away in a safe or will accompany the house owner abroad.

Even so, premiums can be considerably higher for the contents of unoccupied properties, though premiums vary according to area.

When the house is rented out during the owner's absence, contents cover does not include theft by the tenant — there must be signs of forced entry.

YOUR SAVINGS

	% interest net	% gross (for basic rate taxpayer)	Tax	£ Min
BANKS				
Deposit	7.75	10-10.35	paid	1
Regular savings	8.25-9.125	11.74-15	paid	10-month
Deposit	8.25-9.125	11.74-15	paid	2,000
Lump sum 3 months	8.6-9.8	12.25-13.57	paid	2,000
High interest	9-9.5	12.84-13.57	paid	100+
High interest	9-9.5	12.84-13.57	paid	3,000
Current account	9-9.5	12.84-13.57	paid	3,000
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Share account	8.50	11.74	paid	100
7 day	8.50	11.74	paid	100
Instant Access	8.50	11.74	paid	200-500
90 day	10.10-10.25	14.35-14.9	paid	200-500
High interest account	10.25-10.75	14.6-15.4	paid	10,000
TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK				
Deposit	8.25	10.71	paid	50
Deposit	8.25	10.71	paid	50
Premium deposit	8.25	10.71	paid	5,000
NATIONAL SAVINGS				
Ordinary account	8.25	10.71	paid	500
Investment account	8.25	10.71	paid	100
Deposit bond	8.25	10.71	paid	100
Monthly income bond	8.25	10.71	paid	5,000
* If least one calendar year, starting January 1				
NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES (NSCs)				
Current rate	8.25	10.71	paid	25
INDEX-LINKED CERTIFICATES				
10 year	8.25	10.71	paid	10
5 year	8.25	10.71	paid	10
YEARLY PLAN				
10 year	8.25	10.71	paid	300
5 year	8.25	10.71	paid	300

Weekend Money is edited by Margaret Dibben

Why more and more homeowners choose Lombard

A Homeowners Loan can be used for almost anything at all — from a home extension, to repaying existing loans and credit card balances. Unlock the unused value of your home as security for a loan of between £2,000 and £12,000.

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A loan of £3,500 can be repaid at £92.18 per month over 60 months. This makes a total amount payable of £5,530.80 (APR 21.6% variable).

If you are aged between 18 and 65, and are a homeowner, telephone Val Bishop on 021-744-4544 (ansafone outside office hours) or simply post the coupon below for details.

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West Midlands B39 1BR

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£500 gets you straight in and you can keep on adding right up to the joint account limit of £½ million.

INSTANT ACCESS

It can be yours if £10,000 or more remains after withdrawal. Should

less remain you can still withdraw money instantly but you'll lose the equivalent of 90 days interest on

the amount withdrawn. Or, give us 90 days notice of withdrawal and there'll be no loss of interest at all.

MONTHLY INCOME

Your interest can be paid monthly into certain other Abbey National accounts or straight to your bank.

Otherwise, it'll be credited twice yearly to earn you the outstanding net compounded annual rate of 11.04%. For basic rate taxpayers it's a gross equivalent of 15.77% (Although rates may vary).

To apply for a Higher Interest Account call into your nearest Abbey National branch. Or use the coupon below.

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To: Dept. HIR, Abbey National Building Society, FREEPOST, United Kingdom House, 180 Oxford Street, London W1E 3YZ.

I/We enclose a cheque for £_____ to be invested in a Higher Interest Account at my/our local branch in _____

I/We would like: A. the interest added half-yearly to the Higher Interest Account ☐
B. to take advantage of the monthly income facility ☐ (tick appropriate box)

Full Name(s) Mr/Mrs/Miss _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel. _____

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

G46

Please send me full details and an application card.
I/We understand the rate may vary.

10.75% = 11.04% = 15.77%

NET RATE NET COMPOUNDED ANNUAL RATE WHEN FULL HALF-YEARLY INTEREST REMAINS INVESTED GROSS EQUIVALENT COMPOUNDED ANNUAL RATE TO BASIC RATE TAXPAYERS

ABBNEY NATIONAL HIGHER INTEREST ACCOUNT

مكتبة الأمل

PAGE 27

THE GUARDIAN Saturday June 8 1985

THE GUARDIAN Saturday June 8 1963

6:30 News: Farming Today.
6:50 Prayer for the Day.

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6 0 am Newsdesk, 6 30 Album Time, 7 0
News, 7 9 Twenty-Four Hours, 7 30

[illegible]

1 2 0 News: Sunday Papers

al. Gloria Hunniford on the
 the Handicapped Holiday
 & 58 Weather; Travel.
 3. Sunday Papers.
 4. From America.
 5. Service from North
 6. Critics. Omnibus edition.
 7. Great and Good Mr Handel.
 8. Three programmes.
 9. In Use. Do-it-yourself
 10. Food Programme.
 11. World This Weekend.
 12. Children's Periodic Time.
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World Service

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